THE LANCET.

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FATTY TRANSFORMATION OF THE LIVER.

In the Berlin *Medical Zeitung* of July 8, we find a paper on the above subject, by Dr. HEYFELDER. Cruveilhier, who has seldom witnessed this disease in the human subject, and never in so high a degree as in some animals, ranges it amongst the *hypertrophies*; while Andral, on the contrary, would place it in the cases of *atrophia*. The pathological anatomy of Mickel contains nothing special upon this morbid change, which requires to be investigated with greater care and accuracy, particularly as writers have neglected altogether to notice the symptoms &c. preceding it. In this point of view, the communication of M. Heyfelder is valuable. We extract the following cases:—

CASE 1.—A strong healthy woman, mother of several children, was suddenly seized in her 32nd year with irregularities in menstruation. After the lapse of some time, symptoms of chronic inflammation of the liver appeared, and were subdued, though not totally overcome, by proper treatment. She now suffered from catarrhal symptoms, succeeded by profuse hemorrhage from the lungs, which recurred four times in less than five weeks. The patient then contracted an intermittent fever, succeeded by a slow fever, with evident symptoms of disease in the lungs and liver. At this period the author was called upon, and found the woman in the following state. The whole body was of a dirty-yellow colour, with from time to time a *tiraillement* in the right shoulder and upper part of the right thigh. The liver was much developed, especially in the direction of the left lobe; the respiratory sound was absent in the right side, with pectoriloquy; there were, hectic fever, and frequent vomiting of whatever was eaten. The stools were fluid, like *bouillie*, and cardialgia and colicky pains were experienced during digestion. As the disease of the liver was considered to be the principal affection, the patient was ordered some local stimulant applications. However, she was altogether unable to bear them. Two moxæ were placed on the point where the liver seemed most prominent, and the vomiting was combatted with a decoction of Carageen-moss, and afterwards with bismuth and opium. The irritation of the stomach was subdued by these means, but no real improvement was obtained, and the patient died dropsical in two months.

Autopsy twenty-two hours after death.—The brain and membranes were healthy. The left lung was united to the parietes of the chest above and behind, and contained several softened tubercles, one of which had been converted into a *caverne*. The right lung was also adherent to the costal pleura, and was studded with tubercles. The liver was much enlarged in all directions, filled both hypochondria, and had pushed the stomach, spleen, and right kidney, out of their natural places. It was thirteen and a half inches in circumference, and the vertical diameter of the right lobe was seven and a half inches. The surface, as well as the internal parts, exhibited two different colours; one, a grayish blue, comprised one part of the organ, while the upper and most considerable was of a deep colour. Wherever the latter prevailed, the substance of the liver was very soft, penetrated with fat, and empty of blood, giving a fatty feel to the fingers; in a word, exactly like the livers of geese sold for *patés* at Strasburg and Wurtemberg, while the grey-blue portion was solid, and contained all the blood. The gall-bladder was very large and thickened; it contained some dark oily bile, and a few gall-stones. The ducts were sound; the venæ portæ inferiorly were very voluminous; the pleura was

large and excessively soft; the right kidney was also hypertrophied. Nothing remarkable presented in the rest of the abdomen.

Case 2.—An unmarried female, forty-four years of age, who had suffered in health from jaundice, cardialgia, vomiting, and symptoms of asthma, and irregularities in the menstrual flux, died in the commencement of April of the present year, with some of the accidents of rheumatism, and very difficult respiration.

Autopsy.—The brain and membranes were found in a natural state, as also were the lungs; the liver in its lower third was dark-coloured, and containing blood, but superiorly was bloodless, passing from a pale red to yellow, and it was soft, and penetrated with fat. The spleen was large and very soft.

The first of the cases now before us supports Lobstein's assertion, that the fatty transformation of the liver occurs peculiarly in phthisical patients. The second case, however, shows, that this alteration may take place without any organic disease of the lungs being present. In both cases, also, the distribution of two different substances through the liver is worthy of remark, one yellow, fatty, and containing no blood whatever; the other grey-blue, and furnished with the natural quantity of blood. Hence this transformation seems to put a stop to the circulation in the part, and to determine a stagnation inferiorly near the gall-bladder, giving rise to the formation of gall-stones &c. With regard to the etiology of the disease, it would appear, from the history of the cases just noticed, that it primarily depends upon a congestive or inflammatory state of the liver itself.

TEMPERATURE OF THE HUMAN BODY.

We have already noticed the interesting experiments made by MM. Breschet and Becquerel on the temperature of different parts of the human body in a state of health. The same experiments, in a more perfect form, and with a better instrument, have lately been repeated at the *Hotel Dieu* upon patients labouring under various diseases. By a very ingenious contrivance, the new instrument enables the operators to keep up a perfectly constant temperature in one point of the needles for twenty-four hours, while at the same time it is furnished with a very sensible regulator. The following are a few of the results at which MM. Breschet and Becquerel have arrived, and which were communicated to the *Academy of Sciences* on the 10th of August. The degrees given are of the centigrade scale.

No. 1.—A man, thirty-seven years of age, labouring under typhus fever, complicated with bronchite; pulse 116.

Temperature of the mouth.....	39.65
Of the biceps muscle	38.80

No. 2.—A man, twenty-four years of age, affected by enterite with bronchite; pulse 116.

Temperature of the biceps muscle	39.50

No. 3.—A scrofulous child in a well-marked febrile state.

Temperature of the mouth.....	37.50
Of an inflamed scrofulous tumour	40.00
Of a phlegmonous tumour in the cellular tissue	40.00
Of the biceps muscle	40.00

No. 4. A woman, thirty years of age, affected with a tumour of the same nature:—

Temperature of the mouth.....	36.75
Of a scrofulous tumour on the neck	37.50
Of the biceps muscle	37.00
Of the adjacent cellular tissue ..	35.00

No. 5. A female with cancer of the breast:—

Temperature of the mouth.....	36.60
Of the cancer	36.60
Of the exuberant fungi.....	36.60
Of the biceps muscle	36.60

No. 6. In a young man in high fever:—

Temperature of the biceps	38.90

No. 7. In a young man attacked with scrofulous caries of the bones of the foot:—

Temperature of the mouth.....	36.50
Of the biceps muscle	37.50
Of the wound	32.60

(In this case the needle passed through the cellular tissue of the plantar fascia.)

No. 8. A man, forty-nine years of age, affected with hemiplegia of the left side, and presenting the commencement of senile gangrene in the inferior extremities:—

Temperature of the biceps on the healthy side	36.45
On the injured side.....	36.60

Of the month	36.40
Of the muscles of the calf on the sound side	36.60
On the paralyzed side	36.60

No. 9. A woman, forty-five years of age; the inferior extremities engourdies and painful after paralysis; pulse 84:—

Temperature of the biceps	37.14
Of the adductors of the thigh	37.55

No. 10. In a man, sixty years of age, affected with mercurial tremor:—

Temperature of the biceps on the right side, where the tremor is most marked	37.04
On the left side	37.15

No. 11. Case of abdominal dropsy, with affection of the heart:—

Temperature of the biceps	37.05
Of the fluid in the abdomen	36.85

No. 12. A man with confluent small-pox, a few minutes before death; pulse 114:—

Temperature of the biceps	35.35
Of the hand	32.00

The authors observe, that if we remember that the normal temperature of the muscles is about 36°, we shall find,—

1. That the febrile state is attended with an increase of heat which may go as far as 3°.

2. That scrofulous tumours, though violently inflamed, do not present a much greater increase of temperature.

3. That cancer does not present any thing remarkable, except, perhaps, a slight depression of heat in all the parts explored.

4th. and finally. That in paralysis we do not find any very sensible difference between the temperature of muscles on both sides of the body.

SUPPOSED MORALE OF SEXUAL DISTINCTIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—When the law which governs animal fruition shall be discovered, then, perhaps, physiologists will be enabled to determine the cause of sexual distinctions; but I cannot help suspecting that inquiries into either of these very remote subjects will be unprofitable so long as the elements of human apprehension remain under their present restrictions. The investigation, if prosecuted, *may*, to be sure, lead indirectly to some good results; just as the labours of the alchemists of old led to the advancement of pure chemistry. Their visionary pursuits effected an unintentional service, but the grand object of their researches was as intangible at the last hour of their last speculations as it was at the first. Sexographers will not be more happy.

To understand a cause requires a degree of intelligence beyond that which beings possessed of but five senses can ever hope to achieve. Had we seven, then perhaps we might be nearer the attainment. We infer causes by their consequences. We know, moreover, that every consequence becomes in its turn a cause (and we *suspect* that, proceeding in this eternal round, the sum of ultimate consequences regenerates primary causes—at least in the *physical* universe—some metaphysicians have bolder suspicions still), but of the cause itself, primary or secondary, otherwise than as a determining influence, we know nothing. How can the inferior comprehend the superior? The mind is cognizant of the fact that a single spherical substance, called a seed, sown in the earth and placed in circumstances favourable to culture, will in due season assume a new form of existence, ex. gr., a vegetable of complex parts. Of this we are sensible from experience. But no investigation will enable us to discover why the fibres or the leaves of this plant should proceed in one direction and have one form and not another,—why a certain number of flowers should be the product, or why those flowers should be supplied with an apparatus for the continuation of its "order." We know nothing of the cause. If we knew any thing of it, we should be proportionally equal to the cause itself.

It is much to be doubted whether the lower animals (even man himself, in a state of pristine ignorance) have any notion that the propulsive instinct which urges the sexes to physical association, will, when obeyed, result in the reproduction of their kind. Subsequent experience satisfactorily establishes the surprising fact; but he still remains in ignorance of the wherefore. The result of that association (nature being left to her own undisplayed operations) is actually beyond the pale of human volition. The female does not even know at the moment whether she has become impregnated; the male is alike ignorant. Over the product—if a fœtus—neither he nor she possesses any voluntary power to retard, facilitate, alter, modify, or determine; nothing of it, in short, is known up to the last hour of uterine gestation. This has been remarkably instanced in the union of black and white persons. Mulatto children—a fœtal combination of the peculiarities of each parent—are not always the issue; sometimes the mother

has given birth—this delivery to a white infant, that to a black,—and if twins, one has been wholly white and the other wholly black—a little Caucasian on the one hand, a little Ethiopian on the other. The result has been altogether independent of volition.

So it is throughout all animal nature; sexual distinctions are wholly independent of individual volition. Is such a result, then, determined by accident, by idiosyncrasy, by the comparative healthiness of the parent's temporary vicissitudes in the *physique* of either, inequalities or disturbances of organization, abnormal conditions of the faculties involved, variations in passionate fervour relatively, partial derangements of structure, variety of temperament? Not at all.

It is determined by a law of nature (totally independent of the wish, intention, or design of the procreative agents, brute or human), which at all times, and in every community of beings, regulates the balance between the sexes. The determining influences we know from the universality of the effects, but the cause, or the modus operandi, is, and ever must be, to physiological inquirers, even as a sealed book. We know the effects of light and heat upon the animal and vegetable kingdom, but knowing these we may as rationally inquire *why* the sun should evolve light and heat, as, knowing reproduction to be the end and object of animal and vegetable nature, why or by what means it is that the balance of the sexes is in both so nearly equipoised.

I am not of those who, believing whatever *is* to be right, are content to be satisfied, and "say no more about it." I would vigorously set about inquiring, why the planet Saturn should have a belt and not a score of satellites instead, if by such an investigation ever so little good were ultimately attainable; but I have a strong objection to waste my own time, or to see other persons waste theirs, in the attempt to establish hypotheses, the accuracy of which no human intelligence can ever demonstrate. We know cause only by its effects, we know of laws only by their invariable operation; and we must belong to that "higher class of intellectual animals" to which "Philoneuron" mysteriously alludes, ere we can know more.

The notion that "sexuality depends upon cerebral development" in utero, is a very fanciful phantasm, and almost as amusing as Philoneuron's postulate that "a female is an *imperfect* but a near *approach to a male*, and a necessary *gradation* between — [What! O earth!] — *man and the higher classes of intellectual animals*." Nevertheless, his hypothesis, for all the purposes of controversy, may be as good as any other that can be offered. "I. H. B." has demolished it; but there is no great glory in disproving the moon to be a highly elaborated green cheese. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Fi fum Kong.

Islington, Aug. 24, 1835.

ABSTRACT OF THE EVIDENCE OF

MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON,

TAKEN BEFORE THE

PARLIAMENTARY MEDICAL COMMITTEE IN 1834.

EVIDENCE OF

MR. JOSEPH HENRY GREEN.

596. "What professional appointments do you hold?"—"I am one of the surgeons of *St. Thomas's Hospital*, professor of surgery at *King's College*, and professor of anatomy at the *Royal Academy*. I am a member of the College of Surgeons, and the author of an essay entitled 'Suggestions for Medical Reform,' of which I now hand in a copy."

597. "Do you recommend the appointment of a general Council for supervising the medical profession, in all its branches?"—"I do. It appears to me that the main defects of the present system are in the medical student's education, and *the absence of all adequate tests for ascertaining whether candidates, on their claiming to receive their diploma, are duly qualified or not to practise.* The profession itself, moreover, does not provide adequate means, in the way of distinctions or other encouragements, to promote the growth of medical science. In lieu of the system of apprenticeships I should propose that the time now spent in apprenticeship, should be passed by the student at a collegiate institution, where first he might be taught those elements of science which are essential to every liberal profession, and form the necessary preparation for a medical education. Afterwards he might apply himself entirely to studies properly medical."

598. "Do you contemplate there being more than one grade in the profession?"—"Yes. The general practitioner should constitute a grade."

599. "Must not medical education be so carefully ordained, as not, in point of expense, to be disproportionate to the very

moderate receipts of the man who gains his livelihood by practising among the labouring classes?"—"Yes, but, at the same time, with respect to parish medical attendance, I do think that a most disgraceful custom has prevailed, of employing those who will practise at the cheapest rate, without reference to their competency."

600. "What is the minimum time of education which in your opinion general practitioners ought to have observed?"—"Five years; the three last years, bringing it to the age of twenty-one, being entirely devoted to the acquirement of professional knowledge. For the members of the higher grade, at least two additional years.* I believe the whole of the education which I propose for general practitioners, occupying five years, would be accomplished at *King's College* for considerably under 100*l.*; that is, of course, exclusive of official fees, the charges at the Apothecaries' Company, and at the College of Surgeons, and of the expense of lodging and living."

601. "Whom would you make eligible as members of the general Council, for governing THE WHOLE of the profession?"—"Those of THE HIGHER GRADE ONLY, and I would make the Council SELF-ELECTIVE, although the principle of self-election has been the cause of some dissatisfaction among the members of the College. I apprehend, however, that there is no ground for any reasonable dissatisfaction. I am not aware of any inconvenience arising from the members of such a Council holding their offices for life, though, at a certain period of life or service, it *might, perhaps*, be desirable that they should retire."

602. "Do you approve of appointing a certain proportion of junior examiners?"—"Yes."

603. "What *privileges* would you give to the superior grade of the profession?"—"It would chiefly resolve itself into having *that higher character*, which would give them a *better opportunity of pushing their fortunes with the public*. None also but those of the *higher grade* should be eligible as *Councillors*, as *hospital surgeons*, or *physicians*, or *teachers at medical schools*; but I do not propose that private teaching should be abolished, or in any way prevented."—No; Mr. Green does *not* propose that surgeons shall be fined a hundred pounds, and imprisoned for twelve months for imparting knowledge to medical students. He has not the brazen hardihood to propose *that* amongst the other disgraceful and unworthy parts of his precious scheme; but he *does* propose—if his proposition means anything at all—that knowledge obtained at the prelections of surgeons in general practice shall be rejected at the board of examination for diplomas; so that what this gentleman calls "private teaching"—that is to say all teaching which does not emanate from the *pures*,—and no teaching, shall become synonymous terms in the curriculum of professional education.

604. "Is the present mode of selecting the medical officers of public hospitals so perfect as to set improvement at defiance?"—"No, but I do not approve of electing to such offices by concours. The general Council should appoint to them. I do not know how to secure the general Council from the imputation of which the Council of the College of Surgeons have had their share, that being themselves almost all surgeons of hospitals, or teachers, they so framed their regulations regarding hospitals and schools, as to serve their own interests; but these regulations might in part have arisen from ignorance, and not from motives of interest."

605. "How would you propose to deal with the existing medical corporations?"—"By modifying them so as to make them consistent with my plan,—with the exception of the *Company of Apothecaries, the use of which I do not see at all*, though, no doubt, you might have, very advantageously, a board for pharmacy."—The diversity of opinions which prevails amongst these "pure surgeons,"—the "pures" who have given evidence before the Committee—is surely not to be matched in Christendom. It is well for the Committee that having the public good for their guiding star, they know how to get out of the wood at any moment, or the jack-o'-lantern guides from the Council and the hospitals, would embog them at every step, and at last sink medical reform past redemption.

606. "It has been objected to a Board of Examiners consisting of united delegates from each of the three branches of the profession, that it would be a waste of time for physicians to sit by while a candidate was being examined in surgery or pharmacy; and so for the surgeons or apothecaries to sit by, while any other matter was the subject of examination than what regarded their own profession?"—"I do not know: *they might learn something during the time!!!*"

607. "Should education at provincial schools be recognised?"—"Only a part; though if similar collegiate institutions were founded in the great towns of Bir-

* When are these absurdities of measuring the extent of knowledge by the time employed in its acquirement, to have an end?

mingham, Manchester, and Liverpool, I would consider them entitled to recognition; and, as regarded the students of such institutions, I would dispense with their studying in London."

608. "What hospitals should be entitled to recognition?"—"Not one of less than 100 beds."

609. "Is there not at present *great laxity* in granting, and at the medical corporations in admitting, *certificates of attendance on hospital practice and lectures?*"—"Yes; they often afford very imperfect evidence of a student having actually attended."

610. "How would you remedy this?"—"By having the attendance of the pupils registered, as at *King's College*, where the PORTER goes into the lecture-room at every lecture, and *picks down upon a list the names of the students present, as they sit upon the benches*, which is not at all pleasing to students; but this plan would surely be *one of the most important regulations for the improvement of the profession that could be devised.*"—Who, who does not inwardly groan? Of this degrading treatment of students of science, however, we shall say nothing. It is worthy of Mr. Green's "*remedy*" for that rank piece of imposition the certificate system; but suppose that Mr. Green, instead of replying to the question, "By having *the attendance of the students registered*," had said, "I would compel the pupil to prove by his answers before the examining board, when he becomes a candidate for the license to practise, that he had listened to, and understood, the instructive lessons of his teacher,"—we put it—not to Mr. Green, for he is too firmly wedded to his descensive-circle scheme to heed us—but to the profession, whether the witness would not have proposed a more rational and probable remedy for the evil of lying certificates, than that of employing a door porter to "prick down the names of the students as they sit on the benches," and then hand it to the lecturer for his comments.

611. "In order to establish a community of privileges, would it not be desirable to introduce the same regulations into the different medical schools and corporations of the three kingdoms, and at the same time?"—"Certainly."

612. "Would you recommend a Council to confer medical degrees in London, of the same kind as you wish to see appointed for supervising the whole profession?"—"Yes, and the degree ought to carry with it the privilege to practise."—Then we should very much like to know what are to be the powers and purposes of the other examining boards which Mr. Green has proposed. It is quite evident that Mr. Green knows no more what he is talking about, while he is throwing out his "propositions" and "*plans*" for the regulation and government of the profession, than he does of the man in the moon.

613. "Can any definite boundary be drawn between the practice of medicine and that of surgery?"—"No."

614. "Are not the most eminent surgeons in this town persons eminently qualified to practise medicine as well as surgery?"—"No, I should not say that. I do not think that they have had opportunities of knowing sufficiently many points which would be known to those who are more in the habit of seeing certain cases."

615. "Would not the surgeons, educated as you contemplate, be qualified to practise medicine as well as surgery?"—"Yes; but I am of opinion that the *distinction* of physician and surgeon is *highly beneficial.*"—It would puzzle Mr. Green to substantiate his opinion. How can any man thus expose himself after having said that medicine and surgery are one science! Look, too, at the next question and reply.

616. "Ought the surgeons of your proposed higher grade to be restricted from practising medicine?"—"No: it is *impossible* to draw the line; in certain cases, the surgeon *must* practise *as a physician.*"

617. "Would any advantage attend conferring diplomas on properly educated druggists?"—"Such a change could not be too highly estimated."

618. "Have not irregularities crept into the proceedings of existing medical corporations, which the power of appeal to existing courts of justice has not been able altogether to check?"—"*I am not aware of any.*"

619. "Do you approve of the exclusion of surgeons who practise midwifery, from the Council of the College of Surgeons?"—"*Yes, I do.* Surgery would be quite overwhelmed if you were to admit any other members into the body than those who are *exclusively* surgeons."—Whether to laugh or to lament at these absurdities we hardly know. If we lament them it is for the author's sake,—not that we fear their effect, even on the minds of children, were they so offered. In reality, the profession will regard them as sources of amusement. But to proceed yet a little farther with the extravagant fancies and the gross illiberalities of the witness.

620. "Are the general practitioners as likely to give a willing obedience to a governing body from which they are *studiously excluded*, as they would be to a governing body to which they are eligible?"—"I admit that the *apothecaries* feel them-

selves to be a body with *distinct* interests;* but I hope to see the day when they will be considered as *part of the profession*, † as throwing aside *the shop*, and as always having it in view to pass into the higher grade, and *to become physicians or surgeons*."—The identical unabridged words of Mr. Green!

621. "Would you admit a certain number of practitioners in midwifery into the central Council?" — "Yes, certainly."—Compare this with the forgotten reply to question 618.

622. "Would not you give more satisfaction to the whole body of practitioners, if in choosing a general council you were to approximate more closely to a popular election?"—"I should be averse to see that introduced into a profession. I admire greatly popular election, as it respects the State: but I cannot think that it belongs to a profession."—Mr. Green must think that the chances of himself and the rest of the "purea" would be very bad under a "popular election." We need not dwell on the *public* advantages of free elections in medicine.

623. "Might it not be advantageous to require a certain proportion of the Council *periodically* to vacate their seats, in order that an equal number of *new members* might come in?"—"I see at present no objection whatever to that. Such a plan is advantageously acted upon by many philosophical societies."—Take the trouble to compare this with the reply in paragraph 601, and add another to the repeated proofs we have offered that these illiberal witnesses are quite ignorant even of their own principles.

624. "What is the least number of members of a central Council that would be necessary to its performing properly all its duties?"—"I should think the *minimum* must be 100."

625. "How far would you propose to carry preliminary medical collegiate discipline?"—"Not so far as it is carried at Oxford or Cambridge; but at present, as far as my knowledge has extended of the students that come to this metropolis (and that knowledge extends over a period of upwards of twenty years), I cannot speak in favour of their *moral conduct*."

626. "But is it clear that their moral conduct would be *improved* by their *congregating in collegiate establishments?*"—"The *hope* of improvement must depend upon the control."

627. "Suppose a young man lodges with a private family, whom his own parents have selected, would you force such young men into a collegiate establishment?"—"No, in that case there would be quite safeguard enough."—Think, reader, of the attempt to carry this distinction respecting the domiciliation of students, into operation! Such is the end of Mr. Green's sad absurdities and illiberalities.

* By-the-bye, they feel no such thing.
† Unsurpassed insolence.

MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION IN DUBLIN.

In speaking of this Association, we wish it to be distinctly understood, that we do so merely as spectators of its proceedings; that we are in no way publicly or privately influenced in our judgment of its demerits or its deserts; that our opinions are the result of impartial and unbiassed observation and reflection alone. This declaration we deem necessary in consequence of the very contradictory reports which have been circulated by a portion of the British and Irish press, not only of the business transacted at the late meeting in Dublin, but of the manner in which the proceedings were conducted, and of the utility of the existence of such an association to the advancement of British science. By that portion of the press, the Association has been dealt with in the most summary, and, as we conceive, in the most unjust and inconsiderate manner. If we are to credit the commentaries in question, we should believe that the Association is nothing more or less than a mere feasting, spouting, gossiping, good-for-nothing club, unproductive of the slightest advantages to science, and unattended by men of learning and ability, either countrymen or foreigners. Both the tone and the charges of these statements bear the impress of the grossest exaggeration and want of candour. In point of fact, as well as of opinion, they are, we have no hesitation in saying, positively false and malicious. These statements, indeed, are so loosely and superficially put forward, that they almost supersede the necessity of correction; they are their own refutation, for we doubt if they could impose on even the most ignorant and shallow *Quid-nunc* who peruses the pages in which they have been insert-

ed. From them, forsooth, we are to understand that philosophers are to live upon the air, or something even more unsubstantial! Politicians, agitators, editors, and legislators, flourish on feasting, but fasting is essential to the success of philosophy according to the recondite notions of these notoriously abstemious monitors of the public! No questions of any importance can be settled in a parish, a borough, a county, or a city, without the aid of "all the delicacies and luxuries of the season," without "the feast of reason and the flow of soul;" but an assembly of philosophers or of professors cannot meet to import and communicate their opinions to each other, without being denounced as gossipers and gourmands. Now we can assure these sapient and spiritual critics, who are themselves so remarkable for their absence from taverns and such-like places of vulgar recreation, that we did not, during the whole week of meeting, and with every temptation to the commission of the alleged offence, see a single philosopher drunk, or a *sarsat* fuddled, which is more, perhaps, than might be anticipated from a meeting of newspaper editors under similar circumstances. There was, in fact, but one entertainment on the occasion,—the dinner given to the Association by the Board of Trinity College, on Saturday, after the conclusion of the meeting, and which, to the credit of that institution, was of the most splendid and liberal description. This entertainment, we say, was the only one which could by possibility come under the condemnation pronounced against feasting by the editorial moralists of the press of London and Dublin. And yet after that great feast, we believe no untoward accidents of self-indulgence occurred. Many of the leading guests on the occasion, together with their principal host, the provost, Dr. Lloyd, appeared on the plat-form of the Rotunda so early as half-past nine o'clock, without the least sign of their intellectual vigour having been deadened by the luxurious viands of which they had partaken. Nay, a Dr. Barry, a member of the Society of Friends, and, apparently, too, of the Temperance Society, *reascended Mont Blanc* for the gratification of an audience of about two thousand persons, and without missing a step in his perilous and interesting journey. Neither did Mr. Babbage evince any of those mental aberrations in his conduct on that evening, which have been imputed to the condemned usages of Irish hospitality. He went, through a very intricate demonstration of, and a very elaborate and beautiful process of reasoning on, a natural phenomenon on the coast of the Mediterranean, the whole discourse having for its end and object the important moral, that within the reach and observation of every individual, there are facts and phenomena to give occupation to the mind, and a knowledge of which may be of the utmost importance to society. In the performance of this undertaking, no one, however lynx-eyed or beagle-nosed (always excepting some editors whose keenness and sagacity in matters of this kind amount almost to a sixth sense), could perceive the mystifying influence of dietetic excess. Mr. Wheatstone, too, pronounced on the same evening a very learned and ingenious discourse on the imitation of the human voice by machinery, but we could not discover that his own voice was in the slightest manner put out of tune by the convivialities from which he had just separated. No one, indeed, less gifted with the *tactus et visus eruditus* of an editor of a morning or an evening paper, could detect, we conceive, any impropriety in the conduct of the speakers or of their numerous auditors on the occasion.

As to the charge of spouting and gossiping, we are not aware of any law, human or divine, which condemns philosophers or professional men to absolute silence at their meetings. Some will say more or less, or better or worse, than others;—this is unavoidable in the transaction of business in mixed assemblies, where taste, temperament, and other causes, will necessarily influence the quantity and quality of the language of the speakers; but that any error of this kind (and we must say that on this occasion they were few) should be visited on the whole body, and offered as a serious proof of its general inutility, is neither common sense nor philosophy. A newspaper editor considers himself perfectly justified in paragraphing and

culling materials of gossip for the public every day in the week through the whole year round; but the moment a man of science opens his lips to communicate with his fellow-labourer about their respective pursuits, there is forsooth an end to all propriety and consistency. Upon the errors committed in this respect, and they were confined principally to a single section of the meeting, we shall offer some remarks; but we must merely protest in this place, and expose, the absurdity of such a general charge against the society at large.

It has been also advanced, as an important point against this Association, that it has not been attended by any foreigners distinguished in science. The writers who have brought forward this charge, have forgotten to tell us whether this absence of distinguished foreigners has been the consequence of their circumstances, or of their contempt for the British Association. We do think indeed that these writers might have discovered a variety of reasons besides those selected, to account for this pretended lack of eminent strangers. Distance, expense, engagements, attendance at the meetings of similar associations on the continent, and the, as yet, infancy of this Institution, would have surely entered into the calculations of any set of writers discussing this point with more of candour and impartiality in their composition than is to be observed in the condemnatory speculations of the horned editors of the press. The charge, however, is not true; it is erroneous as well as hypercritical. There were many distinguished foreigners present, among whom we may only mention the name of M. Agassiz, of Neufchatel, the pupil, and, we may say, the appointed inheritor, of the fame and labours of Cuvier; and from what we have seen of his labours, and from the able manner in which he gave an exposé of them in the Geological Section, we cannot avoid remarking that he appears to be in every respect worthy of his illustrious patron.

The writers of these objections, too, forget, or may, perhaps, be ignorant of the fact, that the Association is limited to the scientific men of these countries, and that it never was intended that foreigners, however eminent, should be its leading members. With their attendance as visitors, the Association will, we have no doubt, be always gratified, as becomes fellow-labourers in the cause of truth and of science; but knowing upon how many contingencies such visits must depend, the Association can neither be offended with, nor in any degree lessened in importance by, the paucity of foreigners at its meetings. It therefore appears to us to be stretching argument, even beyond the tension of newspaper criticism, to make use of the absence of such men in order to bring a useful institution into contempt. We have, it is true, a rational respect for the opinions of the press generally, and have observed it as a rule never to interfere with it in the exercise of its legitimate functions; but we appeal to the press whether it be fair thus wantonly to attack a body having no other objects than the improvement and welfare of mankind in view, while there are so many racing clubs, quadrille coteries, and gambling associations, upon which it might, with much more profit and propriety, expend its superfluous wit and ridicule. Were we, indeed, to imitate the example which the press in this case has set us, and were to act on the *lex talionis*, we might, with some prospect of procuring success, and of producing sarcastic amusement too, well question the competency of the tribunal to pronounce judgment on the proceedings of any one of the various sections of the meetings of the British Association.

Before any value is to be attached to the opinions of any set of men, it would be well to be aware how far they are acquainted with the subjects under deliberation; and if we may be permitted to make the remark, we must say to these "Fadladeens,"—who with peculiar power of discriminative judgment, the means of attaining which we do not profess to understand, undertake to pronounce a verdict upon every subject which comes before them, from the merits of an epic poem to the painting of a Circassian eyebrow,—that the public have yet to learn what progress the conductors of the daily press have made in physical, chemical, anatomical, botanical, or medical science. For our own part we have not yet heard

of one distinguished man in those pursuits the followers of which they so indiscreetly condemn in the aggregate, who ranks amongst the conductors of the daily press. We do not mention this in disparagement of those gentlemen.

But to conclude a discussion which has been forced upon us, admitting that the several allegations we have stated were literally true, to what do they amount?—To nothing certainly which can be construed into an injury to society, or a stigma on the members of the Association. The case is simply this:—A number of men assemble annually in a given place from all parts of the civilized world, some for recreation, others for curiosity, more to acquire or to communicate information on points connected with their respective pursuits, and all, we will say, apparently animated with an ardent desire to promote the advancement of science and the good of society. They meet; they receive communications, no matter from what quarter they proceed; they discuss with good feeling the topics brought before them; they report the progress of science during the past year; they lay out the best plans by which its course may be facilitated for the next; they reward, they recommend, and they encourage in every manner in their power, the efforts of genius and of industry; and because, with the performance of these laudable duties a few hours of social amusement are mingled, their objects and their labours are to be denounced as something trifling, or worse than humbug, by persons incapable of a due appreciation of such undertakings. The utility of such an Association is not to be arithmetically rated by the number or even the value of the papers read in its sections, or published in its Transactions. Such a mode of reasoning would at least be unfair during the short time the Association has been in existence. One of the great and invaluable advantages (and it is one which we trust the Association will accomplish) is the opportunity which it affords to every man of science of making his merits, if he possess any, known to the world. In this assembly he has a tribunal on which he may rely with confidence; while their "Transactions" open to him the path to publicity, without expense. On the inestimable value of such advantages, we need not insist in the present morbid state of scientific patronage in these countries. They will be felt and appreciated by all those who are aware of the disgraceful and impolitic system which has hitherto conferred its ribbons and its garters—its honours and its emoluments, on the most ignorant and worthless portion of society.

Another, and, we will assert, an important end, which such an Institution is calculated to achieve, is the stimulus and direction which an attendance at its meetings must communicate to young men entering on the difficult pursuits of science with a view to the extension of its boundaries. They there observe how far and in what manner the ablest men in the several departments of science have pushed their researches; and are thus furnished with a sort of clue by which they may escape many of those painful and erroneous steps in that dark and intricate labyrinth of investigation, in which solitude and inexperience not unfrequently involve the studious adventurer. We speak on this point from pretty extensive experience and observation, and we only state what we believe to be the fact, that there was not one of the class of persons to which we have just alluded, who did not at the recent meeting in Dublin participate in the feeling we have so imperfectly, indeed, and inadequately expressed. One other advantage out of the multitude which suggest themselves to us at the present moment we must add, and that is the beneficial influence which the meetings of this Association must exercise over the education and pursuits of the medical profession. From communing with this body the intelligent portion of the profession, at least, must perceive that there are things in the world not dreamt of in their philosophy. It must teach them, and it has done so, we are well aware, to a considerable extent, in Dublin, how wretched is the education of medical men in general, as compared with what it might have been: and the still more absurd system of conducting medical investigation as contrasted with the methods pursued in the other sciences. The meeting demonstrated to those individuals who had so

long wrapped themselves up in their little consequence and brief authority, what has been so well recommended by the example and the writings of ARNOT and ABERCROMBIE, that a knowledge of the physical and exact sciences should form the base on which the structure of medical education should be raised. Out of the hundreds of medical men who attended on this occasion, how few could say to themselves that they were able to follow a HAMILTON or a WHEWEL through even a popular generalization of the results of the labours of these distinguished men! So might we proceed through the other sections, and receive but the one humiliating response, that the elementary education of medical men, as at present conducted, disqualifies them from following up, either with profit to themselves or benefit to society, those studies which are essential to a right understanding, or even an application, of those various but kindred sciences which, combined, are known by the name of medicine. Standing in the presence of these colossal cultivators of the higher sciences, the dwarfs of the profession learned, many of them for the first time, the stunted and distorted stature to which a perverse system of discipline, and a still more pernicious adherence to impolitic laws and corrupt institutions, have doomed them. If, indeed, no other advantage had resulted from the meeting in Dublin than this, we should say that the British Association had not existed in vain, but had accomplished an important revolution in a quarter where it was so much wanted and was so difficult of attainment. In fact, in whatever light we view this great Association, which after all that has been said against it is but a part of that mighty movement of the human mind which distinguishes the present from all preceding eras in the history of man, and which it is admitted by all save the lowest and most selfish bigots, it deserves the co-operation of all men who value the interests of their kind. We see nothing to excite our distrust as to its future consequences, so long as it continues in the useful and splendid career which it has hitherto run, and strictly adheres to the objects for which it was originally organized.

Having noticed these idle and inconsiderate attacks of the press on the Association, in a spirit we trust different from that in which they were made, we shall proceed to the gratifying duty of announcing the eminent success of the late meeting in Dublin. Most of our readers, we presume, are aware of the origin and progress of this Association,—that from being composed only a few years back of a few distinguished individuals in science, it has progressively increased in numbers and in importance, until it now enrols among its members a great majority of the scientific men of these countries. In Dublin, we were happy to find that the greatest increase was made to the number of its members, as well as to its funds. The total number of those who attended at its meeting this season in that city amounted to twelve hundred and fifty; and the entire sum received (including the local subscriptions for the entertainment of the members, together with the proceeds of the sale of the Association's "Transactions" there, amounting to about ninety pounds) was about eighteen hundred pounds, according to the treasurer's report. This sum exceeded, we believe, that which was received last year in Edinburgh—in "Modern Athens" itself—by upwards of two hundred pounds; while the funds contributed in Dublin on this occasion, for the accommodation of strangers, exceeded that for similar purposes in England and Scotland at the two late meetings in these countries by twelve or thirteen pounds. Of the twelve hundred and fifty who attended, about seven hundred were strangers and foreigners; the remainder were principally residents of Ireland. The prominent men from England in the sections were WHEWEL, POWEL, DALTON, SEDGWICK, MURCHISON, DAUBENY, PHILIPS, SYKES, BABBAGE, WHEATSTONE, and SMITH. From Edinburgh and Glasgow, ALISON, GRAHAM, REID, and THOMPSON. The men who represented the science of the country in which the meeting was held, were, HAMILTON, ROBINSON, LARDNER, STEVELLY, and GRIFFITHS. From the Continent and America there were present AGASSIZ, HAHN, PUTHMAN, STROM, MAULF, and MARTINEZ. We make these general sta-

tistical and financial statements to meet the unfounded assertions of the press, that the meeting was neither numerously nor respectably attended. Were it our object to swell a list of this kind, we might readily do so; and we may here remark that the omission of many names which would deserve a place in such a catalogue, is solely owing to the inconvenience of publishing them.

On the same grounds we must decline entering into a detailed account of the business transacted in the sections; such a test could not be attempted without devoting a space to it, which would encroach too much on the other contents of the Journal. No reports, indeed, which have appeared of the proceedings in the sections give any idea of the business transacted. Without being in any manner useful, we consider them positively mischievous. Both the writers of papers and those who took part in the discussions on the occasion, would, we conceive, suffer much from such wretched and erroneous abstracts. The proper time, we conceive, to notice these communications will be when they are printed; the public will then have an opportunity of comparing the originals with the commentaries of the press, and be able fully to appreciate the value of the former and the justice of the latter.

We shall now merely add on this point, that the papers laid before the Association at this meeting in the physical, chemical, geological, and statistical sections were numerous and important; and the discussions to which they gave origin were conducted in the ablest manner, and in a spirit of the most pure and disinterested philosophy.

One observation more we may offer on the working of the sections, and refer to the almost total absence and silence of the members of what we fear has been hitherto misnamed one of the learned professions—we allude to the members of the legal profession. From this department of society, which heretofore has been the nursery of judges, legislators—of the governors, in fact, of the British Empire for so many ages, we do not believe that a single individual took an active part in the proceedings—not even in the statistical business in which it might be expected that these *ex-officio* rulers of the human race would have taken some interest. The absence of this body from the sections may, indeed, be readily accounted for, like the members of the press who have consoled themselves by an effusion of petulant grief on the proceedings of the Association, the members of the bar were unqualified to take any part in the business of the meeting, save that perhaps of looking on and being annoyed by the deficiency of their education. Of all that knowledge which is really useful and important to mankind, we fear that what has long been suspected is but too true—namely, that the legal profession is lamentably ignorant as a body. We doubt much, indeed, if the turn which the intellect and education of these countries have been taking with so much success for some years, will not in a very short time compel these gentlemen to direct their attention to something more substantial and useful to mankind than quibbling and special pleading. Upon the injurious consequences which must continue to flow from almost every office, executive and legislative, of importance being filled by men of this class, we might dilate at much greater length; but we have no doubt the evil will soon right itself.

We must also decline giving a detail of the festivities on this occasion which have given such unnecessary offence. In the preceding part of our observations we have shown the absurdity of railing at the Association on any paltry grounds of this kind. Even supposing that the scientific men of these countries undertake an annual excursion, such as they have made to Dublin or elsewhere, where is the crime—where is the offence? Are they alone, by virtue of their more exalted and useful avocations, to be excluded from the common rights and privileges of human beings? Are they, on account of their philanthropic self-devotion—or, rather, of their self-immolation, oftentimes, in the cause of science, and for the good of mankind, never to escape the confinement of the closet, the drudgery of the laboratory, or the solitary labours to which they have doomed themselves,—to realize, in short, the fiction of Ixion, and toil for ever on the wheel of intellectual exertion without respite or repose? Such a sentence, which we verily believe would be pronounced harsh, if applied to the occupants of a hulk or to galley-slaves, will not, we presume, be confirmed by the approval of a British public. Upon this subject, however, we shall make no further remarks than those which justice requires of us.

It would be unfair and uncandid of us, indeed, not to express what we have learned from a variety of sources, that the entertainments which have been called in question, were in every respect worthy of the character of the country in which they were given, and were well received by those for whom they were intended. Of

this, indeed, we are certain, that many who visited Ireland on this occasion have returned with very different sentiments and opinions of the country and of its inhabitants from those with which they undertook the journey.

In conclusion we may observe, that greater unanimity and cordiality never we believe animated so mixed, so numerous, and so respectable a "gathering" of the natives of the British isles. The distinctions of creed, country, and politics, were happily, in this instance, merged in one great and all-pervading feeling of refined and harmonious enjoyment; and gave to every reflecting mind present, a delightful foretaste of what might be accomplished, both social and scientific, by the emancipation of the human mind from the trammels of prejudice and ignorance. We cannot better end our remarks on this truly national meeting, than by intimating to the inhabitants of Bristol, who are to be honoured next year by the Association, the propriety of imitating the example of Dublin,—"to go and do likewise."

GERMAN JOURNALS.

The two last numbers (March and April) of *Hufeland* and *Osann's Journal* contain articles on the following subjects:—

1. On the act and difference of Vomiting in Children, and on the reason of their easy vomiting. By Professor Schultz.

2. On Orthophrenic Establishments. By Dr. Klose.

3. History of a case of Ileus, followed by Death. By Dr. Hauf.

4. On the Morbid Appearances in Nervous Fever. By Dr. Stannius.

5. Remarks of a Traveller on Malaria (not completed). By Dr. Link.

6. Curiosities and Commentaries in the domain of Natural History and Medicine. By Dr. Pitschaft.

7. Conclusion of a Paper, by Dr. Stannius.

8. Case of Tumour on the Genital Organs of an unmarried Female, with some remarks on these Tumours in general. By Dr. Simeon.

9. On the efficacy of the Magnet in a case of Neuralgia Plexus Solaris. By Dr. Bruck.

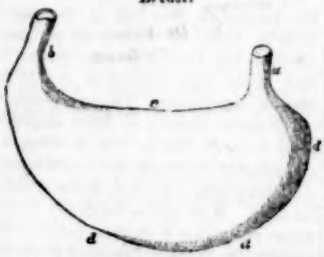
We shall give some account of the paper on

THE CAUSE OF EASY VOMITING IN THE CHILD.

Everybody is acquainted with the fact that the act of vomiting is excited with the utmost facility in the new-born child; in adults, however, the case is different, and in disorders of the gastric apparatus, many of the latter are sick for days or even weeks without being able to vomit. M. Schultz endeavours to investigate the causes of this difference, which, as he remarks, has not hitherto been made the subject of inquiry. For this purpose he begins by examining the causes of vomiting in general, and takes a short view of the different theories that physiologists have advanced on the subject: he does not think, with several of the French writers, that vomiting is produced by contraction of the muscles of the abdomen and œsophagus, but that an anti-peristaltic motion of the stomach, and in some cases of the intestines, is also necessary; for if the œsophagus and abdominal muscles were sufficient, how can we explain the ejection through the mouth of the contents of the inferior portion of the canal? How understand the absence of vomiting in spite of strong contraction in the diaphragm, abdominal muscles, and œsophagus? Besides, the horse, rabbit, hare, &c., and several other herbivorous animals, do not vomit after the administration of an emetic, though their muscles, œsophagus, &c., act with violence; while the dog, who is constructed nearly in a similar manner, rejects the contents of the stomach with great ease. Hence we must look for some additional cause, besides the one just noticed, a cause which the author finds in the peculiar form of the stomach in various animals. In a former work (*De Aliment. Concoct. Experimenta Nova*) Professor Schultz has demonstrated that the impossibility of making certain animals vomit, and the readiness with which others on the contrary vomit, depend merely on the various forms of the stomach, and the variety of the peristaltic motion therewith connected, in the different classes of animals. The same principle applies to the different ages of man: the stomach of the child resembles that of the dog and carnivorous animals; that of the adult is more like the stomach of the rabbit, horse, and

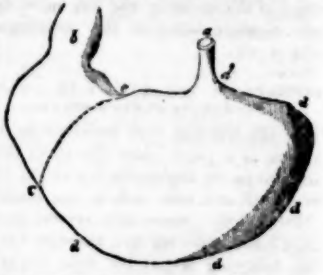
herbivorous animals in general: hence the same reason that renders vomiting more difficult or easy in one or other of these classes of animals, also renders it more easy or difficult in the infant or adult. The author, with Boyle, Chirac, and the modern French writers, does not admit any convulsive motion of the stomach, but affirms that we always have an anti-peristaltic motion, not stronger than the common ones: these contractions are not clearly seen in the middle or fundus of the stomach, but principally at both ends, a circumstance overlooked by other observers. The whole of the pyloric portion strongly contracts when the cardiac portion dilates; but while this goes on, we do not observe any motion worthy of notice, and, à fortiori, no convulsive one in the fundus or other parts: hence, during the act of vomiting, this anti-peristaltic motion pushes the contents from the pylorus towards the central parts of the stomach when they are ejected by the pressure of the muscles. Did the latter act upon a viscus quite passive, there is no reason why the contents should not pass as well into the duodenum as into the œsophagus. Having made these few preliminary observations, the author recals to mind the peculiarities he has elsewhere shown to exist in the stomachs of carnivorous and graminivorous animals, and remarks that the stomach of the child is as different from that of the adult, as the stomach of a pole-cat from that of a rat.

Fig. 1.—*Stomach of the Infant at the Breast.*



The stomach of a child is more conical shaped, and is contracted towards both extremities: the œsophagus is inserted on the left side into the fundus, and is removed to some distance from the pylorus; the small curvature (*c*) is stretched out lengthways; the great curvature (*dd*) is less developed, and nearly parallel to the small one; in a word the stomach resembles that of a carnivorous animal. The stomach of

Fig. 2.—*Stomach of the Adult.*



the adult is quite different (*Fig.* 2). The œsophagus (*a*) is not inserted exactly into the left extremity, but between it and the pylorus (*b*); the latter is nearer the cardia; the small curvature (*c*) is short; the great curvature, on the contrary, is much developed, and forms not only the whole inferior portion, but $\frac{4}{5}$ of the whole circumference. Hence the fundus does not change gradually into the pylorus, as in the child, but this latter is contracted (*cc*) in a more or less remarkable degree, and gives an almost round form to the left half of the stomach. This difference in form gives rise to a great difference in the peristaltic and anti-peristaltic motions; in the stomach of the child, where the small and great curvatures are nearly parallel, the contents are equally pushed on by undulatory contractions of both curvatures, either towards the pylorus in the peristaltic, or towards the cardia in the anti-peristaltic motion. Vomiting is also the more easy, as the œsophagus is inserted into one end of the stomach, against which the contents are pushed: but in the stomach of the adult, when the small curvature is so short, the contents are not equally acted on at both sides, but principally on that corresponding to the great curvature; hence they suffer more a rotary kind of motion of one side to the other, and during the anti-peristaltic efforts are not directed exactly against the cardia and œso-

phagus, but revolve in the fundus. The ejection of the contents of the stomach in the adult requires therefore the strong pressure of the abdominal muscles and diaphragm to effectuate it; while in the sucking child a slight anti-peristaltic motion of the viscus is sufficient to produce this effect, on account of the cylindrical shape of the stomach, and the more direct communication of the œsophagus with it.

EFFICACY OF THE MAGNET IN A CASE OF NEURALGIA PLEXUS SOLARIS.

This affection was first described by the author of a paper under the above title, Dr. BRUCK, in *Hufeland's Journal*, in the year 1827, and, later still, in this Journal (1831, No. 6). Since then several cases have fallen under his care, amongst which the following is not the least remarkable:—

Mons. G., forty-eight years of age, even when a boy, suffered much from difficult digestion. The death of his father compelled him to leave the university where he was being educated, and when returning he caught a very severe cold. The disposition to disorder of the abdominal organs now increased, against which he employed without any avail various remedies, purgatives, and tonics. After a length of time the disease became fully formed, and showed itself under the following symptoms—viz. want of appetite, desire for stimulating food, costiveness, flatulence, a sensation of vertigo, pain in the head, and disturbed sleep. In the summer of 1825 the patient took the baths of Carlsbad for six or seven weeks, without any good effect. In 1830-31 he tried sea-bathing with equal want of success. Medical treatment was continued for six years, but all the symptoms became aggravated, and the patient suffered especially from an oppression about the pit of the stomach, a symptom that the author regards as pathognomic of neuralgia of the solar plexus. The slightest form of this oppression passed gradually into such a sensibility of the precordial region, that the patient, to whom the least pressure gave excruciating pain, was unable to hold himself upright. The patient's mental faculties now became affected, and he fell into a state of hypochondriacism.

As so many remedies of different kinds had been tried in the present case without any benefit, the author determined on employing the magnet. Accordingly a magnetic iron, of three-pound force, was applied directly on the scrobiculus cordis, and the application was so efficacious, that in five or six hours he found himself wonderfully relieved, and on the following day was quite free from any unpleasant symptoms. This state continued for from six to eight weeks, during which the magnet was not applied, and the patient felt as a perfectly sound man. However, neither the slimy stools nor the troubles of the digestive process were removed, and at the end of the time above mentioned the patient felt that the action of the magnet was quite worn out, and his ancient state returning. Hence the experiment was repeated from time to time, but without any success. However, as the cramps in the abdomen were for some time back felt with great violence, the author thought right to try the effect with two magnets, one to the pit of the stomach, the other to the loins. After an hour the cramps became less violent, and in a few hours more they were altogether removed. But (says the patient, from whose own words the above account is taken) after one or two days I thought I remarked an action on the nerves of the abdomen, which I cannot otherwise describe than by speaking of it as a state in which I could neither walk nor speak, and which on the following day was so distressing that I was compelled to remove the magnet, which I had carried for the last twenty-four hours. From this period, says the patient, I have continued to enjoy very good health, and the repetition of the use of the magnet has not been judged necessary.

A Treatise on Insanity, and other Disorders affecting the Mind. By J. C. PRICHARD, M.D., F.R.S. London. Sherwood. 1835. 8vo. pp. 483.

Dr. PRICHARD was one of the individuals to whom the University of Oxford did itself the honour of presenting a degree at the late meeting of the *British Medical Association*. His early work on the Natural History of Man, displaying great research, sound, clear thinking, and many highly philosophical views of our species, deservedly conferred and established his fame. With Blumenbach and Cuvier, whose researches were then novel in this country, Dr. Prichard furnished the knowledge of comparative anatomy and natural history—the tide which Mr. Lawrence took at the flood. Dr. Prichard is a firm dissenter, and his life has been marked

by consistency. Mr. Lawrence suddenly saw the error of the liberal views he had before advocated, at the moment he was about to become a member of the Council of the College of Surgeons. So, too, when a candidate for the situation of surgeon to *Bethlem Hospital*, he was persuaded all at once to become a Christian; and, notwithstanding the severe nature of the initiatory rite, would, doubtless, have professed himself a Musselman, if such a profession had brought him a step nearer to Bethlem. Mark the difference between consistency and renegadism. The dissenter Prichard occupied a proud position at Oxford. Mr. Lawrence is everywhere despised, and is branded with that most odious of titles—an apostate. Who shall describe the mingled scorn and pity with which some of the profession heard, and all have since read, the damning evidence against his character which was elicited before the Parliamentary Medical Committee, and when he himself confessed his alliance with that unholy cause to which he had prostituted his reputation and acquirements?

Our business, however, is with Dr. Prichard's book; yet are these remarks not wholly foreign or impertinent, *lector benevole*; for the book commences with the class of infatuation called by the ancients "melancholy."*

"* * * * * * * Quid avarus?
Stultus et insanus. * * * * * * *"

Dr. Prichard states, in his prefatory observations, "that although many excellent treatises exist on various matters connected with mental derangement in the English, French, and German languages, there is yet not one work extant in either of them which exhibits the *present state* of knowledge and opinion on the whole subject of diseases affecting the mind;" an opinion in which we readily concur.

After having read Pinel, Georget, and the various articles of Esquirol, Heinroth, Hoffbauer, and Jacobi,—the *spirituel* Haslam, Burrows, Ure, who adopted the paradox of Horace, that all the world was mad; even after having risen into the new field of light created in the mysterious region of the human mind by Gall, and cultivated by Spurzheim, the public will feel the want of a general critical history of insanity—such as Dr. Prichard has here supplied.

In successive chapters are treated,—moral insanity, monomania or melancholy, raving madness, incoherence, general paralysis, the terminations of insanity, the causes of insanity, necroscopical researches into the changes of structure connected with insanity, the pathology of mental derangement, the treatment of insanity, puerperal madness, idiotism, the statistics of insanity, unsoundness of mind in relation to jurisprudence, and, finally, ecstatic affections.

The last chapter but one deserves the particular attention of jurists. The English law recognises two classes of incompetent persons,—"*idiotæ ex nativitate*," natural idiots; and lunatics or madmen, styled "non compotes mentis." English writers admit only that form of insanity which the Germans call *wahnsinn*; they know nothing of moral insanity, either as requiring control in the exercise of civil rights, or as destroying or lessening culpability in criminal ones. Thus, in a report of a judgment delivered not many years since by one of the most distinguished lawyers in this country (Sir J. Nicholl), it is laid down that "insanity is deluded imagination, the substitution of fancies for realities." The existence of moral insanity, or exalted irregular propensities, independent of any lesion of the intellect, is now fully established:—

"The conclusion that eccentricity of habits or character is not, as implied by common expressions, allied to madness, but actually constitutes in many instances a variety of mental derangements, is of some consequence in respect to one point of criminal legislation. Various cases are on record, in which homicide and other atrocious acts have been committed by persons of morose and wayward habits, given up to sullen abstraction, or otherwise differing in their propensities and dispositions from the ordinary character of mankind. In the investigation whether such acts of violence are attributable to insanity or not, it will be important to note the fact that the peculiarities of conduct for which the perpetrators had been other-

* Illud signum diagnosticum melancholiæ est, quod uni et eidem cogitationi pertinacissimè inhæreant tales ægri.—VAN SWIETEN.

wise remarkable are sufficient to afford in themselves a strong suspicion of insanity.

"This consideration, had it been fully entered into, would have led to an important result in the case of John Howison, who was executed for the murder of Widow Geddes, at King's Cramond. No well-informed person who reads the account of this unfortunate man's trial, as given in Mr. Simpson's late work "On the Necessity of Popular Education," will entertain a doubt that he was mentally deranged. His case constitutes a very characteristic case of moral insanity. He fell a victim to ignorance.

"The principal consideration in which the subject of moral insanity is important in criminal jurisprudence, is that of insane propension to such acts of violence. Homicide, infanticide, suicide, have been committed in numerous cases under circumstances which gave room for suspicion as to the sanity of the agent. This plea has been set up in many trials, and has often been rejected by juries, while it has been the opinion of medical persons that there were ample grounds for maintaining it."—pp. 183-4.

Dr. Prichard devotes a long section to phrenology, to which we can only call attention; our own views are much more favourable to that doctrine than Dr. Prichard's; yet we acknowledge the weight of several of his objections. Let Dr. Prichard, however, confess that nearly all this new light on the subject of moral insanity has burst on M. Esquirol, on himself, and on the Scotch metaphysical school, since the appearance of Gall's immortal work on the anatomy and functions of the brain.

Dr. Prichard's work shows an extensive knowledge of his subject. The materials have been industriously collected in our own and in foreign asylums,—in the British, but more particularly in the French and German writers on insanity. The style is elaborately finished. The work will form an indispensable addition to every medical library in which there is a section on insanity. It may be regarded as an essential index to the literature of the disease.

A Treatise on Pulmonary Consumption comprehending an Inquiry into the Causes, Nature, Prevention, and Treatment of Tuberculous and Scrofulous Diseases in general. By JAMES CLARK, M.D., F.R.S. London, Sherwood, 1835. 8vo, pp. 399.

WHEN the article on "Tubercular Phthisis" appeared in the "Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine," we noticed its contents in our columns, and expressed a very favourable opinion of the manner in which Dr. CLARK had arranged all our present knowledge of this frequent disease; directing the attention of the profession more particularly to the principles which Dr. Clark had laid down for preventing its invasion; and to the original views thrown out regarding the means of diminishing the mortality produced by the disease, and, in the end, of extirpating, at least to a certain extent, the scrofulous diathesis from our race. Dr. Clark contends with Laennec, Andral, and Carswell, that tuberculous ulcerations in the lungs will heal and cicatrize, but that this termination is so rare, as to justify no man in asserting that he can positively cure consumption. Where only one case in ten, or one case in a hundred, or one in a thousand is cured, it is a deception on the public to assert in round terms, that consumption, like a common inflammation or fever, is curable. That the sufferings of the patient may be much relieved, that the disease may at an early period of its attack be averted, and that the patient's life may be considerably protracted by the judicious regimen and treatment detailed by Dr. Clark, we willingly believe.

Besides medicines, and the ordinary medical treatment, Dr. Clark dwells at considerable length on the hygienic treatment of consumptive patients. His extensive observation in this country, and on the continent, has taught him the great influence changes of temperature and hygrometricity effect on the pulmonary organ, the principal outlet of carbonic acid, aqueous vapour, and heat from the system; and ultimately the great effect so wrought on the fluids, solids, and secretions. This public recognition of the great importance

of physiological and meteorological knowledge in regulating the vital processes, on the part of a physician engaged in extensive practice, we hail as a favourable sign of the times. In these drug-days, which, unfortunately, last all the year round in this country, a return to the ancient principles taught by Hippocrates, illustrated by the improved means and facilities of modern observation, may do much towards saving medicine from the waves of empiricism, which on every side beset it; and to those who, like ourselves, struggle to place medicine on the sound basis of experience and scientific principles, the progress towards those principles is cheering.

That iodine has a very decided effect on scrofulous enlargements and ulcers, there now cannot be the least doubt; Dr. Clark recommends it in the early stage of consumption, when the disease is threatening.

The clinical experiments of Lugol and Baudelocque show that iodine very much improves the general health: besides, as there is not the least doubt or difference of opinion among well-informed pathologists, as to the identity of the scrofulous and pulmonary tubercles, this entitles us to anticipate its specific effect in phthisis. Inhalation is, we believe, an inefficient method of administering iodine; Baudelocque has proved that when inhaled, it has no effect on scrofulous diseases, which can be readily observed.

Viewed in a therapeutic point of view, from which in England we are always accustomed to look at disease, Dr. Clark's treatise on Consumption is the best that has yet been published in this country, or on the continent: it shows an intimate knowledge of the improved methods of diagnosis, and of the morbid anatomy so successfully investigated by the continental pathologists and by Professor Carswell; while it displays an acquaintance with the resources of the system, and the power of therapeutic agents, only possessed in this country and in Germany.

In order to afford the subscribers to the "Cyclopædia" an opportunity of knowing under what circumstances the treatise is printed in its present form, we shall extract entire the Preface to the present volume. It contains also an interesting and excellent summary of the general views entertained by the author on the subject of pulmonary consumption. We confess, as humble judges of literary productions, that the candour of such an advertisement, the professional zeal which it develops, and the modesty of feeling under which it was evidently dictated, would at once decide us to the perusal of the work of any author to whose production it might be attached, and we think it will have the same effect on the inclinations of such of our readers as have not yet seen the present volume or the original article.

"The greater part of the following treatise first appeared as an article in the 'Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine,' under the head of 'Tubercular Phthisis.' In publishing it as a separate work, various alterations and additions were required. These I have endeavoured to supply as fully as the short space of time which has elapsed since its first appearance permitted. That the work might have been rendered more perfect by deferring its publication I readily admit; but after mature consideration, I venture to lay it before the public without further delay.

"If I am not greatly deceived, the view which I have taken of tuberculous diseases is calculated to lead to a more successful method, both of prevention and treatment, than has hitherto prevailed. With this impression on my mind, I feel myself justified in submitting my views and opinions to the consideration of the profession, well aware, that, if erroneous, the task of correcting them is not very likely to originate with their author, and that, if well founded, the efforts of an individual can avail little in procuring the general application of them.

"Although I have entered more particularly into the history of tuberculous disease of the lungs, or pulmonary consumption, my observations will be found to be applicable to the whole class of tuberculous and scrofulous diseases. They all originate in the same constitutional disorder, acknowledge the same remote causes, and admit of the same rules of prevention; and, I may add, that the same mode of treatment is essentially applicable to the whole.

"The total inefficiency of all means hitherto adopted for diminishing the frequency or reducing the mortality of this class of disease, is of itself sufficient incitement to us to seek for some other method of remedying the evil; and it is evident to me that this can only be done,

with any reasonable prospect of success, by directing the attention to such measures as are calculated to prevent the hereditary transmission of the particular morbid state in which the formal disease originates, and to correct the predisposition to it in infancy and youth. It is, accordingly, on this part of my subject, which involves the consideration of the origin, causes, and prevention of the disease, that I have more especially dwelt.

"I cannot but be aware of the great difficulties which present themselves to the accomplishment of my views regarding prevention; and that these can never become generally applicable until the public is fully impressed with the necessity of attending to them. This furnishes me with another urgent motive for the publication of the present work; as it is only by the combined exertions of the profession that the public can be influenced in such a case. And here I hope I may be allowed to calculate the more surely on the support of medical brethren, because, in setting forth my views and opinions, I make no pretension to originality or peculiarity of doctrine. Much that is contained in the following pages is already known to the more intelligent and experienced of the profession, and the only credit I can claim, is the having, perhaps, placed the subject in a more striking point of view, and advocated it with a degree of earnestness commensurate with its importance.

"The subject, in the comprehensive view which I have taken of it, involves so many momentous considerations, and embraces so wide a range, that some points deserving notice may, no doubt, have escaped me, while others may be regarded as too lightly treated; still I trust it will be found that I have omitted nothing of real importance. If zeal for the accomplishment of my main object has induced me to enter into and dwell more fully upon some parts than others, the conviction of their paramount importance must be my apology. My great aim has been to point out the nature and causes of the constitutional affection in which tuberculous diseases have their origin, and on those to found rules for prevention and treatment.

"By diminishing the disposition to this most destructive of all human maladies, we shall not only reduce the sum of its daily victims, but we shall raise the standard of public health, and at the same time advance the moral excellence of man, augment his mental capabilities, and increase the sphere of his usefulness; for it need not be stated, that without sound bodily health the intellectual powers languish and decay. Our subject, therefore, is one which not only concerns personal feelings and social happiness, but involves the well-being of society at large, and the intellectual as well as the physical character of nations; and when we further consider that the disposition to tuberculous diseases, and the deterioration of health which this implies, are evidently, to me at least, *on the increase*, assuredly no higher object than that to which the present work is devoted, can engage the attention of the physician; and if I succeed in awakening a more general interest in the profession towards it, and in pointing out a surer path for observation, I shall not have laboured in vain.

"Respecting the alterations which have been made in my work since its original publication, I may state that the whole has been carefully revised, much the greater part has been rewritten, and considerable additions have been made to almost every chapter; more particularly to those which relate to the causes and prevention of the disease. But I am fully sensible that much is still wanting to illustrate these the most important parts of the subject, and that the labours of many men and of many years will be required to complete a work which I consider as only just begun. I may further state, that I have avoided entering into theoretical discussions; my object having been to adhere, as closely as the nature of the subject would admit, to the simple results of observation, and what appeared to be legitimate deductions from them. There being also a probability that my work, from the importance and general interest of the subject, may pass into the hands of the public, I have endeavoured to divest my language as much as possible of technical terms."

Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Medicine, Paris.—Fasciculus 4.

The last number of the Transactions of the Royal Academy, published last week in Paris, contains, as usual, little that is worthy of attention, much less of extraction. It is really astonishing that the *elité* of the memoirs sent in to the Academy by some of the first men in France, should afford such a scarcity of new, or even of sound matter, that we have searched in vain through many successive numbers, without falling upon a single memoir which we could sit down to analyze with pleasure and advantage. We regret, in fact, to be obliged to say that the printed

productions of the learned body resemble its oral discussions, in which noisy argument too often takes the place of scientific investigation, and from which the stranger retires with the unsatisfactory impression that he has been listening to a number of great men for two or three hours, without having gained a single new idea, or acquired any experience beyond the very *banale* one, that great names may be sometimes attached to very worthless things. Reserving to ourselves the liberty of giving, one day or another, a true and faithful portrait of a *seance* at the Royal Academy, we give a brief notice of the volume before us. It contains,

1*st. Instructions given to M. Gaymard, Surgeon to the Expedition sent into the North Sea in search of the "Lilloise."*

This appears to be a most learned and curious document. Indeed, unless M. Gaymard be possessed of more talent than the admirable Creighton, or unless he have the good fortune to be enclosed in the north seas for the next half century, he will find it utterly impossible to inquire into one-tenth of the various subjects crowded one after the other in these instructions. Thus the unfortunate surgeon has not only to investigate facts connected with medicine, but with the accessory sciences, that is to say (according to the instructions) "with all the sciences which exist, for is there a single science which is not connected with medicine?" Thus, to take a single example. The Esquimaux feeds principally on flesh, and the flesh of cetaceous animals; hence the surgeon has to find out "what influence this nourishment has on their general health. Does it produce local plethora? Does it accelerate puberty in the women? Does it produce suffocations and hemorrhages? And if so, what is the quality of the blood? Is this blood very plastic, and much coloured, like that in the Arabs of Egypt? Is the circulation very rapid and precipitate, as in the Arabs? Is the Esquimaux much subject to hernia, as the monks were who made an abundant use of oil? Is it the odour produced by this kind of diet which has rendered circumcision necessary? Is it true that the venereal disease no longer exists in Iceland? When was it introduced there? How? How do the natives cure it?" These are all certainly questions of interest, and of some importance to be decided, but we fear that circumstances will render it very difficult to answer many of them.

2nd. MEMOIR ON TUBERCLES.

This is a very long memoir by M. Rauin, in which the author professes to investigate the nature, origin, and structure of tubercles, together with the circumstances under which they are formed. As a publication under the authority of the Academy, we suppose it contains views to which that learned body accedes: hence we extract the conclusions at which the author has arrived.

1st. Tubercles are not the product of a particular matter, or of a peculiar vice, existing in the fluids.

2nd. The predisposition giving rise to them in certain persons rather than in others, depends on individual constitution.

3rd. Tubercles (no more than phlegmon) are not accidental productions.

4th. There are two species of tubercles, one that is formed in the serous tissues, in the cellular or other analogous tissues; the other formed in the glandular tissue.

5th. Chronic inflammation does not give rise to tubercles, except when it attacks some one of these tissues.

6th. Tubercles of the first species are much less common than those of the second.

7th. We seldom find the two species of tubercles in the same patient. (In children this proposition is certainly incorrect. We seldom find the subserous tubercle in children, without also finding the bronchial or mesenteric glands tubercular.—Ed. L.)

8th. Tubercles of the second species constitute the greater number of cases of phthisis (*pulmonie*).

9. Bronchitis, or enteritis, may communicate with the mucous crypts, and thus develop the tubercular state; and, on the other hand, this latter state constantly gives rise to inflammation of the membrane where they touch.

10th. Thus bronchitis and chronic pneumonia may determine tubercles; but it is more common to observe the contrary.

11th. If tubercles produce bronchitis more frequently than pneumonia, it is because the mucous glandules are more directly in relation with the bronchial membranes than with the pulmonary tissue.

12th. When the tuberculated glands of the chest determine and keep up a chronic inflammation of the interlobular tissue, this latter often passes to the gray hepatization,

which is the tubercular state of the tissue: here then we have the two species of tubercles coexisting: but here the disease of the pulmonary tissue is secondary: the general diathesis does not exist, and the other serous systems are not affected.

13th. Hence we see that phthisis pulmonalis does not consist either in bronchitis, or in chronic pneumonia, but most frequently in an affection of the mucous glands, commonly succeeded by that of the bronchi or pulmonary tissue.

As to the phthisis depending on tubercles of the second species, as it never depends exclusively on an affection of the mucous glands of the larynx or bronchi, but on one extending to all the analogous glands of the body, the author proposes to call it *myxadinite*.

We have, next, papers on Fracture of the Vertebral Column, by Professor LAUTH, of Strasbourg. Complete obliteration of the Pupil, after operation for the Cataract, by Dr. SILVY. A Case of complete Luxation of the Tibia backwards, by M. BLANCHARD. A Case of severe Luxation of the Knee, with reflections on its Natural Mechanism, by M. LARREY. This has already been published; and here we are disposed to quit our notice of the volume.

M. CRUVEILHIER has been appointed to the Chair of Pathological Anatomy, founded by DUPUYTREN.

THE LANCET.

London, Saturday, August 29, 1835.

A BILL having the following curious and striking title has been read a first and second time in the House of Commons:—

"A BILL

FOR PREVENTING THE PUBLICATION OF LECTURES WITHOUT CONSENT.

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, August 20, 1835."

It was not, however, introduced into that house before it had undergone a first, a second, and a third reading in the House of Lords, and had also encountered a Committee of that Bill-destroying assembly. Yet the public, strange to say, had heard nothing of the bill until the present week. The "readings" in the Lords all passed *sub silentio*, and it appears to have been a committee of mutes who presided over the destinies of the measure.

It was read a first time in the Commons without remark, and the LORD ADVOCATE of Scotland moved the second reading without a remark,—without offering one word in explanation relative to the grounds or the circumstances which had induced him to present such a measure to the consideration of the House. The LORD ADVOCATE, however, is not surpassed for open and manly conduct by any member of the House of Commons; and assuredly he would not, at the request of any noble Lord belonging to the Upper House, have lent himself to the promotion of the bill in question, if he had believed that the enactment of such a measure would in the slightest degree have been injurious to the public interests. The LORD ADVOCATE is not the supporter of jobs or of jobbing, and all the measures which have been brought forward during the session, for the purpose of promoting reform in Scotland, have been characterized by a spirit of liberality throughout the whole of their provisions. This Lecture-bill therefore does not belong to the LORD ADVOCATE. It has been assigned to him by a friend, and the manner of the learned LORD ADVOCATE indicated with how great a degree of repugnance he had undertaken the task imposed upon him. The following is a copy of the bill:—

"A BILL, &c.

WHEREAS printers, publishers, and other persons, have frequently taken the liberty of printing and publishing lectures delivered upon divers subjects, without the consent of the authors of such lectures, or the persons delivering the same in public, to the great detriment of such

authors and lecturers; be it enacted, by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, the author of any lecture or lectures, or the person to whom he hath sold or otherwise conveyed the copy thereof, in order to deliver the same in any college, school, seminary, institution, or other place, or for any other purpose, shall have the sole right and liberty of printing and publishing such lecture or lectures; and that if any person shall, by taking down the same in short-hand or otherwise in writing, or in any other way obtain or make a copy of such lecture or lectures, or any part thereof, and shall print or lithograph, or otherwise copy and publish the same, or cause the same to be printed, lithographed, or otherwise copied and published, without leave of the author thereof, or of the person to whom the author thereof hath sold or otherwise conveyed the same, and every person, who, knowing the same to have been printed or copied and published without such consent, shall sell, publish, or expose to sale, or cause to be sold, published, or exposed to sale, any such lecture or lectures, or any parts thereof, shall forfeit such printed, or otherwise copied lecture or lectures, or parts thereof, together with one penny for every sheet thereof which shall be found in his custody, either printed, lithographed, or copied, or printing, lithographing, or copying, published, or exposed to sale, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, the one moiety thereof to his Majesty, his heirs or successors, and the other moiety thereof to any person who shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record in Westminster, by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, in which no wager of law, essoign, privilege, or protection, or more than one imparlance, shall be allowed.

And be it further enacted, that any printer or publisher of any newspaper who shall, without such leave as aforesaid, print and publish in such newspaper any lecture or lectures, shall be deemed and taken to be a person printing and publishing without leave within the provisions of this Act, and liable to the aforesaid forfeitures and penalties in respect of such printing and publishing.

And be it further enacted, that no person allowed for certain fee and reward, or otherwise, to attend and be present at any lecture delivered in any place, shall be deemed and taken to be licensed, or to have leave to print, copy, and publish such lectures, or any part thereof, only because of having leave to attend such lecture or lectures.

Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall extend to prohibit any person from printing, copying, and publishing any lecture or lectures which have or shall have been printed and published with leave of the authors thereof or their assignees, and whereof the time hath or shall have expired within which the sole right to print and publish the same is given by an Act passed in the eighth year of the reign of Queen Anne, intituled, "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by vesting the Copies of printed Books in the Authors or Purchasers of such Copies during the times therein mentioned;" and by another Act passed in the fifty-fourth year of the reign of King George the Third, intituled, "An Act to amend the several Acts for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies and Copyright of printed Books to the Authors of such Books, or their Assigns."

Provided further, that nothing in this Act shall extend to any lecture or lectures, or the printing, copying, or publishing any lecture or lectures, or parts thereof, of the delivering of which notice in writing shall not have been given to two justices, living within five miles from the place where such lecture or lectures shall be delivered, two days at the least before delivering the same."

During the present week there have been two lengthened discussions on this Bill in the House of Commons, and an amendment has been introduced which renders the measure almost unobjectionable, with the exception of the provisions in the second clause, of which we shall speak presently. Undoubtedly it cannot be denied that private lecturers should receive every protection which the strongest enactments of the law can furnish. The teachers belonging to that class are exposed to the oppressions of unreformed Universities and Medical Colleges, and are borne down or tyrannized over by the huge monopolies which beset them on all sides. They ought, therefore, to be protected by law in the full exercise of their functions, and to be enabled to prevent the publication of their lectures, should they con-

sider that giving publicity to their discoveries would prove detrimental to their interests. So far, however, as *our* experience has gone, we have found that the private lecturer of research and ability has complained, — not that his name has been made too public,—not that his discoveries have been too generally diffused, but that he has been denied the opportunity of deriving that advantage which he had reason to expect would arise from a wide extension of his labours and researches. The private lecturer of ability complains, and justly too, that he cannot by the force of his talents obtain elevation in our public medical offices. Hence, on all occasions, he courts the institution of a comparison between his own merits and those of the persons who, through the operation of an invidious and partial system, are raised above him into places of emolument and distinction. The private teacher, therefore, who relies on his talents for his shield, would be the last man in the empire to shackle the operations of a free press, or narrow the limits in which it ought to move. If he complains of anything, it is that he is not sufficiently noticed by the press,—that enough of his lectures are not published, and we are far from asserting that this complaint is without foundation. No new law, therefore, is wanted by the private teacher; and, assuredly, when the case of ABERNETHY *versus* the Publisher of THE LANCET was before Lord ELDON in the Court of Chancery, to be argued a second time in equity, the decision of that venerable judge was sufficiently comprehensive to afford to every lover of secrecy in lecturing an ample security both for his property and his prejudices. To what point did that decision extend? Why, it absolutely gave a copyright where there was no copy in existence,—in a case, that is, where the lecturer had *no manuscript*. Consequently had the lecturer himself stolen his discourse from the published work of an author, the pirate would be rendered secure in the possession of the stolen property, and the decision of the judge went so far as to prevent even an exposure of the theft. Private lecturers can scarcely require a greater degree of "protection" than was conceded to them in that case. Although the principle on which that decision was founded was certainly unsound, yet we are so anxious that the opponents, and often the victims, of the monopolists should receive every possible protection from their mercenary enemies, that we did not then, and we do not now, complain of the decision of Lord ELDON. Subsequently, on the third hearing of the cause, the Lord CHANCELLOR was enabled, through receiving additional evidence, to perceive the real merits of the case. It was proved that Mr. ABERNETHY was the public officer of a public institution,—that he lectured on a public foundation,—and that he was placed in his office by the trustees of public property,—and thus the widest possible distinction was discovered between the case of Mr. ABERNETHY, and that of an individual who lectured at his own house, or in his own private theatre. Unable to sustain his ground, even with the aid of all the conspirators attached to the other hospitals, who had, by their cajolery, and their promises to defray the expense of the law proceedings, induced him to sacrifice his reputation by appearing in the Court of Chancery,—then it was that the injunction was dissolved, and the important distinction between private and public teachers was drawn (a distinction for which *we* had always vehemently contended),—by one of the most distinguished lawyers that ever presided in the English Court of Chancery. Whether the public lecturers are or are not content with the present state of things, it boots little to any persons ex-

cept themselves, as it is quite clear that they have it not now in their power to better their condition. And here we may observe that the incapacity of nine-tenths of these gentlemen has been so thoroughly exposed to the public, that they had not a friend in the House of Commons possessing rashness enough to induce him to say one word in their behalf. Alas for the monopolists!

Why then is this bill brought forward? There are no demands for it, so far as we can learn, on the part either of private or of public teachers,—by teachers in Universities, in hospitals, or in any other institutions. To solve the mystery we may as well state at once, that a noble and learned lord has resolved on delivering a series of political lectures in the North of England, and fearing that he should not continue to attract audiences, as he himself has stated, he has brought in this bill to protect himself from annoyances in the newspapers. Hence in the second clause of the bill the sting of the measure is discoverable. The noble lord entertains a peculiar whim, and a peculiar Act of Parliament is to be the result. Verily we live in strange times. In the next LANCET we may be enabled to print the amendments introduced into the bill, and explain their nature.

METROPOLITAN-HOSPITAL PUFFERS OF THEMSELVES AND OF QUACK MEDICINES.

Nostrum est inter vos, M.R.C.S.L.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Perceiving that you style certain certificates of Messrs. Green and B. Cooper "alleged certificates," I beg to refer you to the *Globe* of June 29th, in which you will find these gentlemen exhibited in full puff with Mr. Franks. I refer to this date merely, because at the time, with an intention of exposing the reputation-hunting system in your invaluable Journal, I made a memorandum of the puff, together with that of Professors Rowland and Dewhurst; of Leek's genuine pills prepared by Thomas Taylor, metropolitan surgeon; and of Wright's celebrated ointment, recommended by Mr. C. A. Key, and advertised in the *Derby Mercury* and *Staffordshire Advertiser* of 10th and 27th of June.

After your late notice of the subject, it would be an idle task to treat in detail the illiterate trash of which these advertisements are composed; allow me however to consider them in substance. We have, first, a member of a Royal College inviting Mr. and Mrs. Bull to buy a specific which cures every variety of urinary disease in forty-eight hours, leaving the constitution better than it was before, and all for the small charge of four shillings; and Messrs. Green and Cooper, metropolitan and hospital surgeons, and, from *peculiar* education, candidate councilmen, give their names to the promulgation of a libel on the profession which they are sworn to uphold, and thereby become parties in the exhibition of a nostrum-vender, and heralds to the achievements of a quack. As for Mr. Green's atonement by doing penance in chancery, it is a mere farce that never would be enacted if he were not driven to it at the point of THE LANCET; for Mr. G. is not the only one you have in chancery under a most unmerciful milling.

The next puff is that of Professor Rowland, who, with equal truth, announces a kalydor "which facilitates the progress of female beauty, producing whiskers and mustachios," and other hair, with such force, that it is dangerous to let it touch either the dressing-case or the fingers of the purchaser, lest the French polish of his box distort itself in horror at the intrusion of hair, or the operator's hands be converted into the hands of Esau. Yet, notwithstanding this, a teacher in a medical school, if not bareheaded, is at all events barefaced enough to continue to recommend its illimitable virtues, even after his late penance at the shrine of THE LANCET for puffing off quack pills. In his present pilgrimage, it is to be hoped you will not suffer him "to boil his peas," and escape with impunity.

As for Mr. C. A. Key, it will be seen by recent numbers of the Stafford paper, that you have succeeded in *locking up* his formal certificate, though not the announcement that he still sanctions "the celebrated ointment which cures the most inveterate cancers, pronounced incurable by the faculty." Surely Mr. Key cannot have reflected on the immense evil which results from the indiscriminate application of ointments, whose active principles are arsenic and bichloride of mercury. It is

not long since a respectable person who had been gulled by Mr. Key's certificate, applied to me, exhibiting a wretched state of the gums and cheek after the use of Wright's ointment. I know of an infant also that has been nearly blinded by its use; and I have but this very day seen a female who having disease of the carpal bones in consequence of injury, had been judiciously recommended by Mr. Hughes of Stafford to keep the hand and arm at perfect rest; but she, tempted by the advertisement, abandoned provincial surgery to adopt the metropolitan practice, and use the wonder-working ointment of Messrs. Wright and Key.

When a self-elected and more than useless council permit their very friends and relatives to minister to the avarice of quacks, either in open advertisement, or (like a certain *Joseph Surface* with the widow Welch's pills) *sub rosa*, it is no wonder to see their members announced, like Messrs. Goss, Franks, and Taylor, as the proprietors of nostrums. Let THE LANCET therefore continue its increasing hostility to curb the licentiousness of those who are wily enough to entrap an ignorant public through the instrumentality of reputation hunters, and an epicene species of professional bands.

Permit me to ask in conclusion, as a general question, without reference to any individual, if the London College of Surgeons have not the same power with the Dublin College to dismember those who indubitably violate their oath, and instead of supporting, bring palpable disgrace upon the honour and dignity of the profession. I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

A LICENTIATE OF THE R.C.S. IRELAND.

Staffordshire, Aug. 25, 1835.

(From the *Weekly True Sun.*)

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COURT.

GREEN *v.* FRANKS.

On the 31st of July Mr. Knight applied for an injunction to restrain the defendant from publishing a testimonial given to the defendant by Mr. Green, the surgeon. The former was the inventor of a medicine, called, "Franks's Specific Solution of Copaiba;" and thinking that the name and character of the plaintiff would materially promote the sale of it, he had published the testimonial in question. Mr. Kindersley appeared for the defendant. The Vice-Chancellor, in giving judgment, stated that the question was whether he was authorized to restrain the defendant from printing and publishing to the extent applied for. Conversations had taken place between the plaintiff and the defendant as to the value and efficacy of the medicine in question. It was admitted that at one of such conversations the plaintiff himself suggested the different modes of making this preparation remunerative to the defendant for the expense he had been at in its discovery. It having been stated by the plaintiff's bill that the course adopted by the defendant had caused, or appeared to cause, a violation by the plaintiff of two of the by-laws of the Royal College of Surgeons, prohibitory of certificates, in favour of secret remedies, or *nostrums*, being given by its members, and involving certain pains and penalties on the event of their so doing, his Honour stated that it did not appear to him that the present certificates came within such by-laws, which he thought applied to a member of the College advertising a specific for his own benefit. It did not appear that the expressions in the plaintiff's certificate went to speak of the writer's own practice, but as testifying to the efficacy of the medicine of another. If the Royal College of Surgeons meant to prohibit the giving certificates of the kind now complained of, he considered they should at least furnish their members with such a form of certificate as might be used by them with safety. If the plaintiff intended no general use to have been made of his testimonial, he should have qualified it accordingly, or declared that it was intended for the medical world only. He did not feel himself at liberty to grant a general injunction, but thought that the fair use to the world and to the plaintiff would have been to publish the certificate *verbatim*.* He should therefore grant an injunction to restrain the defendant from continuing to publish the advertisement and wrapper complained of in their present form, so far as regarded the testimonial of the plaintiff, mentioned in the pleadings, but would make no further order.

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* The portion which is in *italics* of the following sentence was omitted by the defendant from the document first published by him as the "Testimonial" of Mr. Green:—"It is an efficacious remedy, *and one which does not produce the usual unpleasant effects of Copaiba.*" We observe that the advertisement is now repeated with the "testimonial" *verbatim*.—ED. L.

LITHOTRIPSY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You are well aware that the best of surgical writers and practitioners of all ages have strongly disapproved of the publication of fortunate cases only. One who flourished in your country not very long before my time, and who, though not a Frenchman, was yet, I must admit, a very good surgeon and sensible writer, has stated "that there is often more of instructiveness in an unfortunate case, than in a fortunate one, and more of ingenuousness in confessing such misfortunes, which are incident to all mankind." Will you be kind enough to give Dr., the Baron Heurteloup, a hint that some (if indeed he has any such) of his unsuccessful cases would be acceptable to those who take an interest in the improvement of surgical science.

He may, perhaps, be persuaded to detail some cases in which a fatal result has speedily followed the exploration or broyement; he may, if he can, favour us with an account of some of those reputed as cured, in whose bladders, after so long period, one or many stones have been found upon dissection to exist; or, again, he may have the kindness to relate the symptoms under which patients supposed to be cured now labour; and whether or not in any of them, foreign bodies have been again ascertained to reside in the bladder.

Perhaps at your solicitation the Doctor Baron may be induced to favour the profession with a catalogue of *all* the cases he has treated, and their respective results; your numerous readers would then be able to form a better estimate of the merits and claims of the operation and operator than by having from time to time two or three cases presented to them as cured, and said to continue free from symptoms "since eighteen months."

You will, my dear phlebotomist, by making an earnest request through the pages of your invaluable journal, and using your great influence with my distinguished countryman, confer a lasting favour on your admirer,

THE SHADE OF LE DRAN.

August 22nd.

REMARKS

ON THE CASE OF SUPPOSED

RECOVERY FROM HYDROPHOBIA,

Published in THE LANCET of August 22nd.

BY W. YOUATT, ESQ. *Professor of Veterinary Medicine in the Univ. of London.*

(From the "Veterinarian" for September, 1835.) *

THE report of the "Recovery in a Case of Hydrophobia," copied from THE LANCET, will be read with interest. The question as to the latest period at which the excision of the bitten part may be attempted with any hope of success, is a very important one. Practitioners, whether medical or veterinary, are now almost universally agreed that rabies has but one cause, the introduction of a peculiar poison into the system—a poison that remains for a while unabsorbed—inert—and, often not until after the lapse of a considerable period, begins to exert its deleterious agency. If at any time previous to the commencement of the morbid nervous excitement which it ultimately produces it is removed, or the tissue on which it lies is destroyed, danger ceases. But, after the constitution is affected, would the practitioner be justified in extirpating the bitten part? Most certainly he would, if the destruction of the part had not been before attempted; and the surgeon should closely question himself, or others, if he were not the operator, whether by possibility a minute portion of the virus could have escaped the previous application of the caustic or the knife. In such a malady, where legitimate hope scarcely comes, no means which offer the slightest shadow of success should be neglected. No great dependence, perhaps, can be placed on such a measure: the nervous irritation is too general and too great for any intensity of inflammation which may be set up in the bitten part to remove or even to alleviate. It is not, however, the valuable, the powerful principle of counter-irritation which alone is here concerned. This is a disease of empoisonment: it is produced by a certain virus, which, either acting upon or absorbed from the tissue on which it lay, has deranged the whole constitution.

How do facts stand here? The writer of this *leader* may, perhaps, be forgiven

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* We have been favoured with a proof-sheet of this article, (a "leader") by our respected contemporary.

for speaking in his own person. In the course of a long practice, a great many dogs bitten by others supposed to be rabid have come under his care. Where the wound could be discovered, the caustic was invariably applied with severity proportioned to the nature of the case. Very many dogs, notwithstanding this application of the caustic—whether it failed, or whether, in an animal covered with hair, some other wounds had escaped the most careful search - became rabid and died. Others, suspected to have been bitten, but on whom not a scratch could be discovered, were put under confinement, and a considerable proportion of them became rabid. *It is extremely difficult* to discover a slight wound on an animal thickly covered with hair.

Possessing opportunities for obtaining some knowledge of this disease which in those days fell to the lot of few veterinary practitioners, and urged and determined by circumstances with which the public have nothing to do, to some slight portion of distinction in one branch, at least, of his profession, he was industrious in his accumulation of facts. He was anxious to detect the earliest symptom of the malady; and the earliest in most of his patients was an eager licking or gnawing of the originally bitten part in the dogs on which he had operated, and of some place varying in different cases in those in whom the wound had escaped detection—proving the local origin of the disease; ascertaining the precise period when the previously inert poison began to exert its fatal power; confirming the propriety of the mode of prevention then resorted to by the thoughtful, and now universally admitted as the only rational one; and giving rise to the inquiry urged by these gentlemen, whether, even after the time for prophylactics had ceased, after the affection was no longer a strictly local one, "the free excision of the bitten parts ought not to be adopted," as destroying the original focus of mischief—the source whence the fatal nervous erythism now prevailing first sprung, and whence, possibly, its supply of deadly influence was drawn.

The principle of counter irritation was not forgotten—counter-irritation set up not only in the neighbourhood of the original seat of morbid action, but in the part itself. Much perhaps was not hoped from this, and yet possibly, in some cases, where the balance of power was nearly equal, it, might turn the scale.

The knife and the caustic—the knife to prepare the way for the caustic—were in frequent requisition; but long without any satisfactory result. The symptoms of rabies once having developed themselves, the disease would pursue its course in spite of these means of prevention.

At length a case did occur in which the approach of the disease could not be mistaken; and one of the symptoms was evident inflammation of the bitten part: the knife and the caustic were here freely used, and every symptom gradually disappeared, and the patient recovered.

A long time having intervened, a second case of the same kind came under his notice, in which the same measures were adopted, and were attended by the same result. It may be supposed that he was not a little elated at this, and that some few professional day-dreams at this were indulged in. This renewed excision of the bitten part was no longer justifiable on theory alone; it bore the stamp of practical success—success, the instances of which, indeed, were few and far between, but which it was no longer folly occasionally to expect.

He was, however, reckoning a little too fast. There came another patient. The dog was suspected to have been bitten—it was in a manner certain that he had been bitten; but the wounded part could not be detected, and he was not operated upon. The disease approached—it established itself. There was the perversion of temper; the suspicious scowl; the eager watching of imaginary objects; the darting at some phantom of the imagination; the depraved appetite, and the characteristic howl. The malady pursued its regular course during more than four-and-twenty hours, and then came a gradual calm;—the dog quieted down to his usual appearance and habits - he became well!

But what became of the pleasing theory in which the veterinary surgeon had indulged? It also disappeared, yet not leaving "no wreck behind"—leaving at first a somewhat confused mass of speculation and doubt, but which gradually formed itself into a still more satisfactory object of contemplation. Another, and another case succeeded. Once, in a hundred times or more, the constitutional affection admitted not of a doubt; every characteristic symptom assumed its proper situation in the line of march, and the whole was apparently hastening to its usual fatal termination: but presently there was a pause: the symptoms remitted; they one after the other disappeared; and the patient was himself again.

What was the probable conclusion from this—if a conclusion was yet justifiable? That a minute portion only of the virus having been originally deposited in the wound, or being roused to action before it had assimilated to itself sufficient other

matter; or the part on which it lay, or the constitution generally, not being disposed to be acted upon by it, an imperfect disease alone was set up, and ran its course without affecting life. When the absorption of the virus commences, is it rapidly completed? Or may not the slowness of the process be traced in the gradual development of the different symptoms? With the suspected dog under his frequent observation, the veterinary surgeon is usually aware of the approach of the disease a day or two before its unequivocal symptoms are manifested. Either a greater supply of morbific influence is necessary to the completion of the case, or it is only slowly that the system yields to the power of the virus.

It is surely justifiable to operate again upon the bitten parts—it is not only justifiable, but it is a point of duty that should not be neglected. *The disease does occasionally spontaneously yield*; the most probable explanation of this is, that the virus is exhausted. Let, then, the chance be taken of artificially exhausting it—of removing that tissue on which a portion of it may still remain not yet matured or prepared for action. Before the full development of the malady—before the full constitutional affection, this would not only be justifiable, but praiseworthy.

That is a strong case referred to by Dr. Bardsley, "the wound was excised thirty one days after the bite, and after the hydrophobic symptoms had appeared, *and the man's life was saved.*"

It is related in the Medico Chirurgical Transactions of Altenburg (Sept. 1821), that a man was bitten by a rabid wolf. The part was excised, and he appeared for awhile to be doing well; but, all at once, symptoms of hydrophobia came on, and were too plain to be mistaken. The wound which had been kept open was examined, and some fungous granulations seemed to be sprouting from its bottom. The caustic was applied; they were removed; the nervous irritability subsided; and the patient did well.

Trolliet says that several persons were bitten by a rabid wolf, and some of them died. The cicatrix in the arm of one man became inflamed, and gave him much pain. The caustic was freely applied, and no hydrophobic symptoms appeared.

In May 1827, a bolder experiment was made at Guy's Hospital. The patient had been bitten severely in the hand seven weeks before. No application of caustic or knife was made, and the parts were healed. Rabies had ensued, and the patient "laboured under the disease to its full extent. The disease had been developed thirty hours; the hydrophobia existed in the highest degree, and the frame was agitated with the most dreadful spasms." They who advised, in such a case, amputation of the arm, were little or not at all deserving of censure, although the operation seemed to increase the duration and the violence of the spasms, *for the case was otherwise desperate:* but the surgeon, who in the very early stage of the disease, and during the premonitory symptoms, if they may be so called, proposes and effects amputation or deep excision of the bitten part, may encourage some hope—we can scarcely yet dare to calculate how much or how little—and he will assuredly deserve well of his profession.

Thus far as to the propriety of the operation in an undoubted case of rabies. But how does it bear on this cate? Why, in a state of great excitation from some nervous lesion, the destruction of the injured portion of the nerve will be often found to be in the highest degree beneficial. It was so here. The patient began to recover as soon as the parts were freely cut away. But there was no rabies in the case. The dog was not rabid, and could not communicate a disease which he had not himself.

The usual duration of rabies in the dog is from four to six days: it rarely, indeed, reaches the seventh day, and it is often fatal on the third. This dog became sickly about the middle of June. It bites its mistress on the 22nd—a week afterwards. He remains at large two or three days after that, and at the expiration of the second week he was *killed*; "the throat and salivary glands having become enlarged, the flow of saliva much increased, and the eyes slightly inflamed."

The salivary glands of the mouth are generally somewhat enlarged, and especially in the early stage of rabies: this enlargement in a few cases in a very slight degree spreads to the parotid glands, so that they may be felt, but rarely seen to be enlarged. The flow of saliva is profuse at some time in the early or middle stage of the disease, but it lasts not long, rarely twenty-four hours, and is succeeded by a strange dryness of the mouth and fauces, and a thirst which nothing can quench: and, before the sixth or seventh day, to say nothing of the fourteenth, the inflammation of the eyes, if pure inflammation ever did exist, has passed away, and nothing remains but the green-bottle opacity, characteristic of this disease. The dog probably had distemper, in some stages of which *these patients* are less irritable than under the influence of rabies, and the woman, as these gentlemen ac-

knowledge, was in a high state of nervous irritation, and nothing more.

No offence can possibly be meant to these gentlemen; but is there no veterinary surgeon in the neighbourhood of Kelvedon; or is the veterinary profession in a state of utter degradation there? Do medical men act courteously, honestly, when in cases like these they take to themselves a part of the affair which does not belong to them, and to which they are not competent? Do they consult their own reputation? Do they act honourably by their patients? Cases continually occur in which the veterinarian of many a year's practice is unable at once to decide whether the animal submitted to his inspection is rabid, and he craves time. There is scarcely a veterinary surgeon who does not look back with regret on cases in which he needlessly excited the most agonizing fears, or suffered a human being to remain in a state of dangerous fancied security. Is then the human surgeon, who has not perhaps seen a dozen cases of rabies, or half so many, in his whole life, competent to decide? or is he acting rightly, conscientiously, when he pretends to decide?

This part of the subject will be resumed at another, and, perhaps, not very distant period; for it is not in this respect alone that the human surgeon trenches on the rights of the veterinarian, and in a manner which he would himself repel with no slight degree of indignation. How many a story of strange and ludicrous, and absurd horse-and-dog doctoring, can we tell! And some calculations we could make of the sum netted per annum by certain apothecaries, who should not take so much from our scanty remuneration and livelihood.

Pseudo-Hydrophobia. — Under this title we have received the following brief note from Dr. Hare:—

I was surprised to find a case of "Hydrophobia" in No. 20 of The Lancet, vouched by so respectable an individual as Mr. Tomkin. I shall offer a few brief observations upon it, in order to guard the profession and the public against entertaining false hopes from similar treatment and practice in cases of *true* hydrophobia.

I wish to take no other data than those of the gentlemen themselves in the case, and to express my entire conviction that the case was not one of hydrophobia in the usual medical acceptation of the word, but one of that mysterious class of neuralgic diseases, of which in the present state of our knowledge we know so little. The dog was evidently not rabid; we have no instance in history of mad animals surviving a week after hydrophobia had fairly set in.

Our transatlantic brethren are accustomed to shoot with long bows, therefore *their* cases are to be cautiously received. In case of a return of "hydrophobia," I hope the patient will be spared further excision of her finger.

13, Upper Gower-street, Bedford-square, Aug. 26th.

Sir A. Carlisle. — Mr. Broomfield, chemist, of Tottenham-court-road, has addressed a letter to us complaining with reference to a remark affixed to one of the replies contained in the medical evidence of Sir Anthony Carlisle, "that it imputes unworthy and interested motives to Sir Anthony, for giving his favourable testimony of Lockyer's Magnesia. As I know the facts of the case, (says Mr. Broomfield, who is a gentleman of great respectability,) I take the liberty of informing you that you have been guilty of much injustice in such imputations. It was entirely a spontaneous act of Sir A. Carlisle, he being actuated by no favour, fee, or reward. Sir Anthony was an entire stranger to me, he sent me his testimonial without even solicitation, as also did several of the most eminent physicians; and it is a frequent practice of eminent medical men to give such testimonials. * * * My principle motive in writing (Mr. B. adds), and I have considered it an act of duty to do so, has been to point out to you the injustice you have been guilty of to Sir A. Carlisle."

NORTH LONDON HOSPITAL.

Aneurysm of the Superior Mesenteric. — Singular Modification of Scarlatina.

William Wright, aged 44, was admitted March 21, under the care of Dr. Elliotson. He is by trade a carpenter, and has in general enjoyed very good health; only remembering to have been ill once, about nine years since, and then with rheumatism. About four weeks ago he was seized with violent retchings, flatulence, and pain in the lumbar region immediately below the last rib, occurring with greater severity after meals, and his nights were sleepless. He had less nausea the following week, but vomited his food occasionally directly after taking it. About

a week after this he discovered a round, hard, pulsating substance in the umbilical region; the pulsation was increased after meals. Severe pains in the epigastric and umbilical region followed, his breathing became affected, the pulsations were more violent, and his extremities were rather cold. He found the recumbent position less painful than the erect; he was easiest while lying on his back, and could not lie on his right side. These symptoms continued up to the day of his admission.

Sometime in December last, while carrying a hamper of wine, his foot slipped, and he was precipitated forwards, and in trying to recover himself he dislocated his knee. He did not, he believes, suffer any inconvenience from the accident, nor does he attribute his present illness to it.

On exposing the abdomen a very distinct pulsation is now perceived at the umbilicus. The taxis discovers a circumscribed pulsating tumour extending two inches above and two inches below the umbilicus, and about the same on each side; it is felt to distend at each pulsation. On pressing the tumour immediately below the umbilicus, a thrilling or purring sensation is detected. The bowels have been costive, and there has been tenderness of the epigastrium since the pulsation commenced. At present the pulse is 80 and regular; the heart's action is perfectly healthy, and, except when inmuch pain, the breathing is quite natural. The tongue moist and tolerably clean; the head achs but does not throb. He sleeps little; the extremities are colder than natural; he complains of pain, which is increased on pressure in the right lumbar, epigastric, and umbilical regions; bowels confined.

March 23. An ounce of castor oil was given directly, which relieved the bowels twice, and the next day he was bled to twelve ounces, and a mixture of salts and sennæ was given twice a day.

It is hardly necessary to go through the details of this case. The plan pursued by Dr. Elliotson was such as would tend to prolong life to the utmost verge that nature would allow. Repeated small bleedings with doses of the hydriodate of potash, gradually increased, and doses of the muriate of morphia, to procure sleep at bedtime. He sometimes felt a little less tenderness on pressure, and sometimes the tumour did not beat quite so strongly, and he has occasionally complained of numbness and twitching of the muscles of the legs. There has been an evident decrease in the pulsating power of the tumour, but its size has, of course, not been getting less. On August the 9th he began to conduct himself in rather a strange manner, and so continued to the 13th, when he complained of pain in the back of his head, which felt very hot; he squinted a little and was delirious, but answered questions directly when roused. His throat was sore, the mucous membrane being inflamed. The surface, except the face, was covered with an eruption of papulæ of a livid colour, and extending in small patches. He moaned continually, and his limbs were tremulous. Pulse 132; tongue white, the papillæ elevated towards the tip, bowels regular. Five grains of calomel with half a grain of the muriate of morphia were ordered directly, half an ounce of castor oil two hours after, and blisters to the back of the neck and shoulders.

14. Has passed a very bad night, having had scarcely any sleep; his bowels have been open several times; pulse 120, rather full; tongue brown and dry; pain in the head; pupils very much contracted. The head was shaved, and a blister, which completely covered it, was applied to the surface. Three grains of the *Hyd. c. Creta* were ordered every four hours, and three grains of the muriate of morphia were given directly. Beef-tea occasionally.

15. Slept better last night; he does not answer questions, but appears to understand what is said to him; he has constant twitches of the fingers; he moans continually, and also mutters to himself; bowels not much open; tongue covered with a dark fur; pulse 132, weak.

16. He continued much in the same state until late last night, when he became very much convulsed, and picked the bed-clothes. He died at nine a.m. to-day.

Autopsy Thirty Hours after Death.

Head. The dura mater was rather more vascular than usual. The brain itself was healthy, but the ventricles contained a large quantity of serous fluid; there was also a considerable degree of effusion on the surface of the brain.—*Chest.* The viscera of the thorax were healthy; the lungs contained rather more fluid than in health.—*Abdomen.* The liver was darker than usual, and gorged with blood; the gall-bladder contained a large quantity of bile, and the bile-ducts in the liver itself were much distended with the fluid. The internal surface of the aorta was diseased, a deposit of osseous matter having taken place under the lining membrane. The aneurysm was one of the superior mesenteric artery; it was about the size of a human heart, and was filled with coagula, which had partly become organized.

In lecturing on this case, Dr. Elliotson observed that the disease of which the patient died was a very curious one. He suspected at the commencement of the attack that the man might be suffering

from irritation carried along the course of the arteries from the aneurysm. He was soon, however, able to account for the disease in another manner. There had lately been, in the next bed to the deceased, a man suffering under well-marked scarlatina, and it soon became evident that Wright's complaint was a modification of that disease. This opinion was strengthened from the circumstance of another patient in the same ward becoming affected in a similar manner. It was the case of Edward Britton, who was admitted for rheumatism and pericarditis. A day or two after Wright was attacked, Britton was seized with severe pains in the joints, tenderness at the epigastrium, great thirst, and profuse sweating; his pulse was 100, and the urine was high-coloured; the mucous membrane of the throat and fauces was inflamed worse than in Wright's case, and the surface, except the face, was covered with a papular eruption, for the most part of a dark colour, but in some places of a bright scarlet; there was more eruption apparent in this case than in the other, but it was by no means a good eruption. There was pain in the head, but his mind was not quite so confused as that of the other patients. His eyes were blood-shot, and suffused with tears; there was also great heat of the surface. Dr. E. was fearful of depletion in this case, and he considered stimulation would be equally injurious; he therefore ordered the body to be sponged with tepid water, and gave a mixture of the liquor ammoniæ acetatis. He was getting rather better, when, on the 20th, his mother removed him from the hospital. Dr. ELLIOTSON felt at a loss to account for the peculiar modification of the disease, the patient who suffered from scarlatina having had no unusual symptom, and recovering speedily. It proved how very imperfectly the subject of contagion was understood. It was known that in syphilis one person had nodes, one ulceration of the throat, and one a cutaneous eruption; that in one constitution a single course of mercury wholly cured the disease, while in others, course after course was employed, the effect of each course only being to arrest the disease for a time. The cause of these differences was not known. Facts like those which had occurred in the above cases should be remembered, that they might serve as sign posts when modifications of other diseases were met with.

RHEUMATISM WITH PERICARDITIS.

Edward Moody, hatter, was admitted, July 28, under the care of Dr. ELLIOTSON. He is of sallow complexion and delicate constitution. About three years ago, after getting wet through, he had an attack of acute rheumatism, and although he recovered sufficiently to resume his occupation, he has never been perfectly free from the rheumatic pains since. Fifteen months ago he again got wet through, and had another very severe attack of rheumatism. He has not been able to work since. His symptoms at present are, constant aching pains in the ancles and soles, much increased by walking or standing. He has, also, occasionally, less severe pains of a similar character in the other joints. He does not know that heat makes any difference in the pains, but when he perspires freely, which he frequently does, he feels better afterwards. He complains also of great dyspnœa, especially while in the recumbent position, and of cough attended with an expectoration of a thick yellow mucus. Deep inspiration causes him to feel tightness across the chest. He has violent palpitations on the least motion, but has no pain or tenderness in the cardiac region. He can lie perfectly well on either side.

Auscultation.—Respiration very dull over the whole of the chest; and in many places, especially towards the clavicles, sibilant. The heart acts in a very rapid and irregular manner. Its action is heard over a much larger space than in health, and is attended by a sawing sound, which is heard after the pulse. This sound is equally loud in the erect and in the horizontal positions, and is loudest at the sternal extremities of the cartilages of the left true ribs. Percussion gives a dull sound over a greater extent than natural in the cardiac region, but not in the right. The impulse of the heart is also increased. Pulse 120, sharp; bowels rather confined; tongue tolerably clean and moist; urine high-coloured; cupped to twelve ounces over the region of the heart, and five grains of blue pill given three times a day.

August 4. Complains for the last two days of a violent shooting pain along each side of the neck and around the head. This pain begins at about three o'clock p.m., and continues till eight at night, occurring in paroxysms which last about half a minute, and at intervals of two or three minutes. The gums are tender. Only to take a pill at bed-time.

15. Expresses himself as being altogether better, but the preternatural sound of the heart continues. Carbonate of iron in two-drachm doses twice a day.

18. Was discharged relieved.

Dr. ELLIOTSON remarked, that the sound after the pulse must have arisen from one

of three causes; either that the valves did not do their duty, but allowed a small quantity of blood to rush back; or the blood met with some obstruction in its course; or there was an effusion of fibrin, and consequent friction. Abnormal sounds of the heart were usually heard with the pulse; those occurring after it were much less common, and there was then usually one heard with the pulse also. It was now known that a bellows sound might exist for years without inconvenience or increase, as it was most likely to arise from effusion of lymph on the surface of the heart. Three years since he was consulted by a gentleman who was told by a physician that he had a preternatural sound of the heart, but that it would not inconvenience him or shorten life. He was, however, fearful, and applied to Dr. Elliotson without informing him of the former opinion. Dr. E. gave the same opinion. About six months ago the gentleman again presented himself; since his former visit he had been almost all over the Continent of Europe, had taken immense exercise, and had climbed steep places, without suffering any sort of pain or inconvenience. On examining the heart, the sound was still detected, without any evident difference having taken place with regard to it. Abnormal sounds occurring with the pulse are generally loudest when the patient is in a recumbent position, but those occurring after the pulse, on the contrary, are less when the patient is erect.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Medical Student's Practical and Theoretical Guide to the Translation and Composition of Latin Prescriptions. With an Explanatory Latin Grammar, Text Book, and Exercises. By J. W. Underwood. London: Souter, 1835, pp. 242.

A Treatise on Pulmonary Consumption, comprehending an Inquiry into the Causes, Nature, Prevention, and Treatment of Tuberculous and Scrofulous Diseases in general. By James Clark, M.D. London. Sherwood. 1835. 8 vo. pp. 399.

The Pathology and Diagnosis of Diseases of the Chest; Illustrated especially by a Rational Exposition of their Physical Signs. With new Researches on the Sounds of the Heart. By C. J. B. Williams, M.D. 3rd Edit. much Enlarged. London. Churchill. 1835. 8vo. pp. 213.

In the press, "The Christian Physician and Anthropological Magazine." The first number of this periodical will be published on the 1st of September, and continued monthly, price 4d., by Ebenezer Palmer, Paternoster-row.

CORRESPONDENTS.

The statements in the letter signed *An Observer* cannot be inserted, unless authenticated confidentially by the writer.

Mr. Quintin's letter came to hand too late for insertion this week. It shall appear in our next number.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

(*Extract from a Meteorological Journal kept at High Wycombe.*

Lat. 51° 37′ 44″ North, Long. 34° 45″ West.)

Days.	Thermometer.		Barometer.		Rain.	Wind.	Weather.
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Ins. Dcls.		
Aug. 17	73.50	47.50	30.01	29.95	—	N.	Fine.
18	76.75	47.50	30.02	.97	—	E.	Fine.
19	81.25	50.50	29.96	.86	—	E.	Fine.
20	81.50	49.75	.72	.47	—	N.E.	Fine.
21	80.50	54.50	.48	.37	—	S.E.	A few drops of rain in even.
22	74.50	44.	.38	.28	0.0375	S.	Rain in morning. After fine.
23	74.25	54.50	.50	.45	0.3	S.	Showery morn. After fine.

Aug. 25, 1835. W. Jackson.